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African Violet

MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 1953

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

ROOTED CUTTINGS

Rooted Cuttings 75¢ each, plus packing and postage charge.

Orders to be shipped this fall, as soon as ready, and filled in rotation as received. Due to the increased parcel post rates all orders under \$10.00 MUST be accompanied by a 75¢ packing and postage charge. We request that you list at least two substitutes when ordering. Otherwise we will substitute similar varieties when necessary. Minimum order, six cuttings. Varieties as follows:—

All Aglow	Fairy Tales	Pink Fantasy
Autumn (Supply limited)	Fire Chief (Dbl.)	Pink Attraction
Ak Sar Ben Countess	Firefly	Pink Sunburst (Gammell)
Ak Sar Ben Snow Lace	Fluffy Dream	Pink Doll
Aristocrat	Fluffy Lady	Pink Mauve Girl
Amethyst Girl	Fantasia	Pink China
Ballet	Fluffy Double	Polonaise
Black Amethyst Girl	Grotei Hybrids (Six of these, our six best)	Princess Elizabeth
Brown's White Butterfly	Geneva Girl	Purple Knight
Blue Radiance (Hull's)	Geneva's Daughter	Ruffled Treasure
Bolero (Fischer's)	Giant Geneva Pink	Red Princess
Baby Pink	Honey Girl	Ruby Girl
Blue Ohio	Heather	Royal Ripples
Christmas Star	Helen Montgomery	Red Wing
Celery	Indianola	Red Lady
Copper Girl (Gammell)	Jivarro	Red Radiance
Cherie Girl	Jungle Fern (Gammell)	Sunset Sue (Hull's)
Corsage	Jungle Girl	Silver Lining
Crested Beauty (Hull's)	Jody (Hasenyager)	Snow Line
Congo Queen	King Neptune	Sundream
Cranberry Girl	Loralei	Sweetheart (Fischer's)
DuPont Apple Blossom	Lullaby E Lou	Starglow
Dianne	Lady Loretta	Shocking Pink
Dark Allure	Magungensis	Silcott Girl Hybrids (Selected varieties)
Double Fringed White	Magungensis Hybrids	Sunglow
Double Ruby Bi Girl (Gammell)	Moon Ripples	Seashell
Double Fringed Blue	Mary Lee	Sir Lancelot
Double Lady	Moonlight	Seafoam Sea Queen (Gammell)
Double Red Velvet Girl	Magnifico (Double)	Sunset Lane
Dainty Duchess	Minuet Girl	Snowflake
DuPont Blue Delight	Naughty Marietta (Hasenyager)	Tongwensis (Species)
Double Fringed Orchid	Oriental Girl (Gammell)	Twinkles
Double Doris	Orchid Spray	Taffeta
Duet	Pansy	Tinker Bell
Double Orchid Bouquet	Pink Wonder (Pat.)	Victory Cirl
Dolly Dimples	Pirate Girl	Varigatta
Dream Girl	Pied Piper	White Butterfly (Fischer's)
Eventide	Pink Luster	Waxy Blue
Eclipse (Fischer's)		White Neptune
Eclipse (Granger's)		
Evening Sunset		
Enchantress (Hull's)		

DOROTHY YOUNG

2937 RUTLAND

DES MOINES 11, IOWA

Edited version

ROOTED CUTTINGS

THE FOLLOWING DOUBLES, GIRL LEAVES, ORIGINATED BY MRS. FRED GAMMELL, DES MOINES, IOWA.

Gay Empress
Velvet Empress
Double Ruby Bi Girl
Jungle Empress
Moon Empress
Black Beauty Double Girl

Red Empress
Empress Josephine
Sunset Empress
Jewell Empress
Royal Empress
Double Fantasy Girl

ROSEONNAS AS FOLLOWS:—

Michigan Maid (Dbl)
Creole Queen (Dbl)
Dreamy Eye (Dbl)
Loveliness (Dbl)
Orchid Crystal
Blue Sharon
Twinkle Toes
Beacon
Cameo
Bleeding Heart
Purple Eye
Desirable
Hoodwink

Purple Crest
Silooet
Cauliflower Ears
Blue Day
Blue Harvest
Blue Dawn
Kurl
Sterling
Ideal
Comet
Belle
Scepter
Summitt

Pinwheel
Sun
Maple
Nugget
Grotei X
Necklace
Spade
Dream
Luster
Jewell
Royal
Scallop
Swirl

THE FOLLOWING ORIGINATIONS OF MRS FRED GAMMELL, DES MOINES, INTRODUCED BY US.

PLANTS

Heather Queen
Heather Princess
Heather Lady
Heather Duchess
Heather Silver Bell

PLANTS

Heather Coronet
Heather Crown
Heather Crest
Heather Mist (Also called Misti-Heather)
Royal Heather (Dbl)

PLANTS OF THE ABOVE TEN VARIETIES \$1.50 EACH. ROOTED CUTTINGS OF HEATHER QUEEN, HEATHER PRINCESS, HEATHER LADY, HEATHER DUCHESS AND ROYAL HEATHER . . . 75¢ EACH.

DOROTHY YOUNG

2937 RUTLAND

DES MOINES 11, IOWA

OFFICIALLY WITHDRAWN FROM
COLLECTION OF M.B.G. LIBRARY

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

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FRONT COVER: Azure Beauty — the editor's collection		Page
Tell You What		4
President's Message		9
Remember Nashville?		10
Horticultural Achievement Awards		12
Honorary Awards		14
The People Behind the Scenes		
Quixie Nichols		16
The Great Moment		
Ella Carter		19
The Fluorescent Way		
H. G. Harvey		26
Things That Count		
Emily Hodan		33
Yearbooks		39
Highway 53 of African Violets		
Daisy Jones		40
Show News and Views		44
Calling All Men		54
Past Present and Future		
Florence Foltz		56
New Affiliated Chapters		59
The Homing Pigeon		60
Registration Report		62
Question Box		65
Club News		74



AFRICAN VIOLETS

IN A COLONIAL SETTING



We invite you to visit our retail shop specializing in violets. Excellent selection of new varieties, in addition to old favorites, on hand at all times.

"Everything you need for your Hobby"

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED -- 50¢

BLUE FAIRY TALES AND MIXED HYBRIDS

Violets	50¢-\$4.00	Knotty Pine Planters	\$1.00-\$12.50
Leaves	10¢-75¢	Lamp Brackets—	
Soil and planter mix	25¢-35¢	(Antique Reproductions)	\$2.00-\$4.50
Vermiculite	25¢	Week-end Willies	98¢
Fertilizer	10¢-25¢	Brass Planters	\$1.50
DX Aerosol Violet Spray	\$1.50	Miniature Birds, Bees, and Butterflies	15¢-25¢
Clay Pots 2½"	2 for 5¢	Milk Glass Flower pots	\$1.89
3" (standard or squatty)	5¢	Violet plates	\$2.50
4" (squatty)	2 for 15¢	Iron Trivets	60¢-\$1.00
Plastic wick pots	39¢-49¢	Ivy bowls	\$1.75
Ceramic pots	\$1.00 up	HOBBY KITS	
African Violet Books—		Kits include:	
Green Thumb	39¢	Vermiculite	
Helen Wilson	\$2.95	Planter Mix	
Montague Free	\$3.50	10 Clay pots	
Rootone	25¢	Violet Book	
Window Shelves—		Five leaves	
One Tray	\$1.39-\$2.00	Fertilizer	
Two tray	\$1.59	Price: 5 unnamed leaves in kit	\$2.50
Wrought Iron Plant Stands	\$18.50-\$24.95	5 older varieties	\$3.50
Sodium Selenate	25¢	5 newest varieties	\$4.50

WE SHIP LEAVES BUT NOT PLANTS

SEND FOR OUR CATALOG

ATTENTION CANADIAN CUSTOMERS: Ask about our permits to take plants across the border

WINDOWSHILL GARDENS

6589 MAIN STREET

WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

ON ROUTE 5 ONE-HALF MILE WEST OF TRANSIT ROAD

Open Daily Including Sundays

Plaza 9438

LUCILLE HART

KAY JOHNSTON

TELL YOU WHAT . . .

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio. Make checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Please do not send them to the editor of the Magazine.

DUES — \$3.00 for a twelve months period. There are no \$2.00 memberships.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

ERRORS IN MEMBERSHIP CARDS, MAGAZINE ADDRESS, HANDBOOK LISTING OR FAILURE TO RECEIVE MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — you may subscribe to the African Violet Magazine for \$3.00. This is for a twelve months period. Membership in the Society is not included with subscription.

CURRENT ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost to members .75¢ per copy. To non-members \$1.00 per copy.

BACK ISSUES — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee and get a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make all checks for back issues payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 79 West Gibson Street, Canandaigua, N. Y.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Ada Magill, 707 South 4th Street, Aurora, Illinois

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost is \$5.50 for two. Orders for one binder are not accepted.

COLOR SLIDE PROGRAMS — write librarian 4720 Calumet Drive, S. W., Knoxville 19, Tennessee. Three months notice is required for reservation.

HOMING PIGEON — to join the Pigeon write to Iva Woods, 226 High Street, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. To drop out of a Pigeon group or to find a lost one communicate with Mrs. Woods.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR LOCAL SHOWS — write Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky.



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Reports of talks at the Nashville Meeting not in this issue will be in the December Magazine.

Hope that you like the new layout of the Magazine. It is supposed to better display our advertising, to make reading easier . . . with no continuations to the back.

A million sincere thanks to the faithful reporters who worked so hard at Nashville getting the Convention stories for you.

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

CLUB NEWS — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry Iowa.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — For September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — unless previous agreement is made with the editor pictures cannot be returned.

AFRICAN VIOLET PIN — may be purchased from the pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. The Pin, or Lapel Button for men, may be had in sterling silver and blue enamel for \$3.50 or in 14 carat gold and blue enamel for \$12.50, including state and federal tax, plus packing and shipping charges.

When ordering please print your name and address. This pin is for National members only. Profits from the sale of these pins are the jewelers, only.

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK — is mailed out to all members of the Society. Write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee if you do not receive your copy.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS AND BROCHURES — specify number required when writing editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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Introducing the Sensational . . .

WHITE MADONNA

(Blue ribbon winner for best Mutant Shown at National Convention, 1953)

Very large double white blooms on dark green girl foliage. The blooms are carried in profusion just above the foliage making a striking contrast. When the blossom first opens, it is a cream shade that opens into a clear frosty white. This plant is perfect in every respect. It has wonderful growing habits and propagates true. This will be available for wholesale sales about November 1, 1953.

Other new introductions such as Black Magic, Juliet, Cherie, Peg O' My Heart, Madam Cochet, Ruffled Treasure, Pandora, Sundance, and several others will be available to the trade by the time this ad is published.

WE REGRET that, due to the lack of time we have discontinued our RETAIL MAIL ORDER business as of August 1, 1953. This business will not be renewed, since we have increased our wholesale business to the point where it takes all of our time. There are retail sales made at the Greenhouses everyday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Please ask your local dealer to furnish you with our new introductions. Our wholesale list is available to dealers only, and all shipments are made via Railway Express.

Granger Gardens, Inc. has been carrying on a Hybridizing program for the past four years and now have many new things that will be released to the trade from time to time. We will keep you up to date on our new releases with each issue of the Magazine. To our old Mail Order Patrons, may we say THANK YOU and we wish you good growing.

GRANGER GARDENS, INC.

ROUTE 1, WADSWORTH, OHIO

PHONE SHARON CENTER 9300

Greenhouses located one mile east of the School at Granger, Twelve miles north of Wadsworth, Ohio.

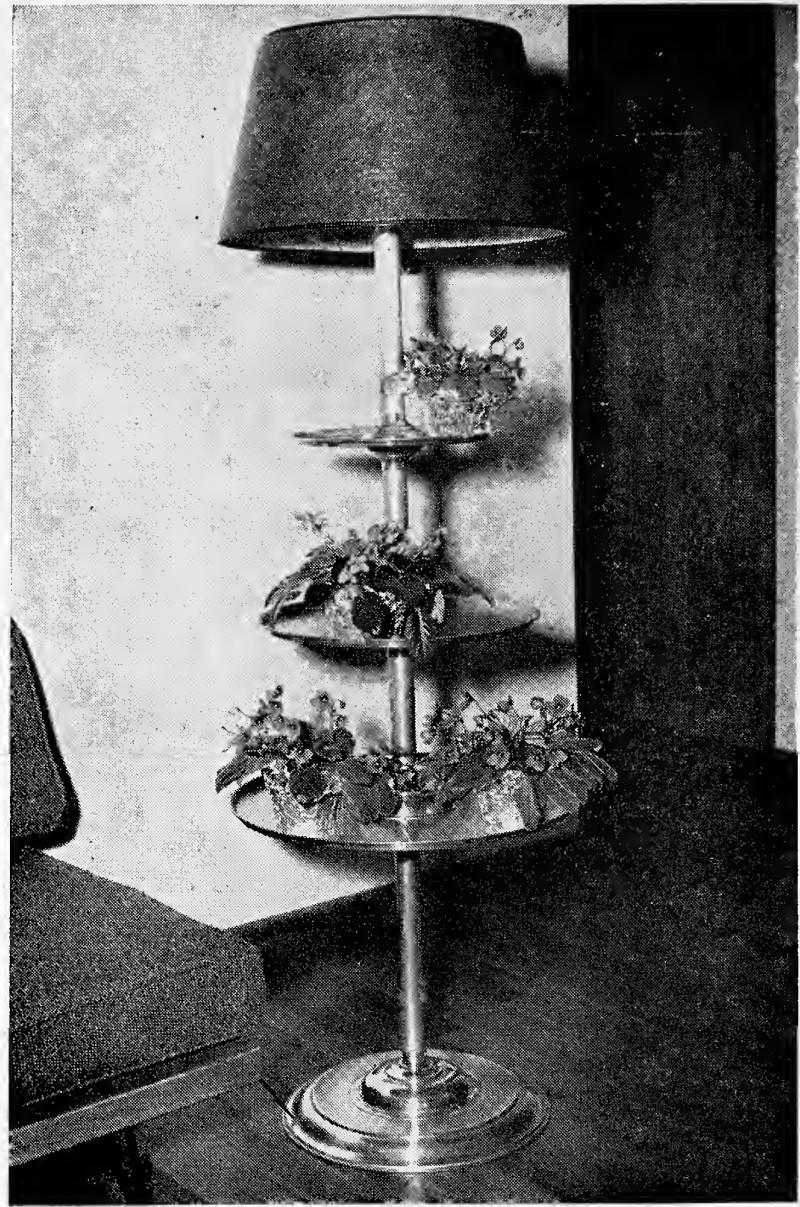
- Q.** What African Violet Food is best?
- A. STIM-U-PLANT**
African Violet Food
- Q.** What produces stronger plants with larger more beautiful blooms?
- A. STIM-U-PLANT**
African Violet Food
- Q.** What is best for starting seedlings, cuttings and transplants?
- A. STIM-U-PLANT**
African Violet Food
- Q.** What is the most perfectly balanced, water soluble, easiest to use plant food?
- A. STIM-U-PLANT**
African Violet Food
- Q.** What plant food is used and approved by commercial growers?
- A. STIM-U-PLANT**
African Violet Food
- Q.** What African Violet Food contains Vitamin B¹, all nutritional elements needed plus plant hormones?
- A. STIM-U-PLANT**
African Violet Food



African Violet Food?

- A.** Send \$1.00 for 2 cans ppd. to —

STIM-U-PLANT
LABORATORIES



NEW FLOOR LAMP FLOWER TREE FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

The OZARK SPUNALUM COMPANY of Jackson 4, Missouri has just brought out the new Combination Floor Lamp and flower tree shown in the photograph herewith. This flower tree is especially designed for African violets.

It is a real ornament in any home. The tree is made of lustrous rust proof spun aluminum (except the lamp fittings).

Each tray is water-proof and holds up to one-half inch of water. Plants can be watered the ideal way -- from the bottom.

Each tray rotates freely about the center for even sunning of the plant.

Tree holds up to seventeen 4-inch African violet flower pots -- yet requires only 20" floor space.

The Spunalum Floor Lamp Flower Tree is 60 inches high over all, -- 18 inches from floor to bottom tray; 10 inches between trays. It is fitted to mount any three-wire shade.

The light of the lamp is found to actually help the growth of African violets.

Price of this flower tree without shade is \$30.50. With a 20" shade, \$33.50. Both prices express prepaid from Jackson, Missouri.

The President's Message



The Convention is brought to you --

This is the issue for which all of us have been waiting. Those who attended will relive again and again the many pleasant experiences which they had at our Nashville Convention. And this issue will mean much to the many who could not attend as it carries photographs, reports and articles of the happenings of this most memorable meeting. Here you will find photos of many of our African violet people whom you have heard about -- or know. It will make you feel as though you too, were there.

Special thanks again to Mrs. W. C. Dalton the Convention Chairman and all her fine co-workers -- to Mrs. L. C. Gross for the beautiful Show we all admired -- to Mrs. John A. Landaker for the attractive Commercial Exhibit and to Mrs. James B. Carey for a splendid program which was both entertaining and instructive. The Nashville Meeting was superb!

We now have a new addressing system all set up -- which has taken quite some time to complete. If you are not receiving your mail or magazine please contact our Editor. Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. She will check our records and will correct any errors. Should there be questions concerning renewals -- please send your membership cards to her for verification. These will be returned promptly.

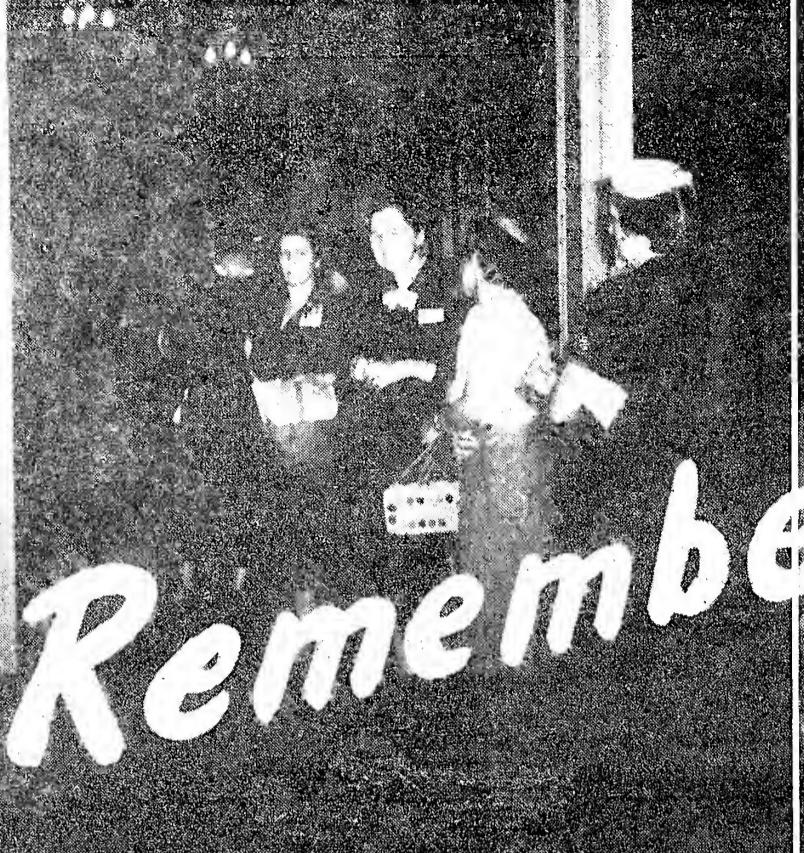
Please re-read Items 1 and 2 of "Words of Caution" on page 7 of the June issue! Several are not abiding by these instructions. Please remember that **ALL** memberships are \$3.00 per year. No one may renew a membership for anything less. **IF** -- and please note this particularly -- you belong to an **Affiliated African Violet Society**, you must renew through your Society. Your Treasurer of your Society may retain 50¢. But he or she **MUST** make the remittance to our **African Violet Society of America, Inc.** -- not you, which in this particular case would be \$2.50. If you will follow this simple procedure it will save us much trouble and no doubt get your Magazine into your hands sooner.

Some societies are using a wholesale idea of taking in members at their shows. These new members should, of course, belong to the local society -- and live in the general vicinity, rather than reside in a distant state.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, 5611 Newton Road, Route 2, Box 240, Merriam, Kansas is Chairman of the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund. Please send all remittances and correspondence pertaining to this fund to her.

May I also call your attention to page 4 of this Magazine. This is the "Tell You What" page. There is much good information there . . . By action of your Board of Directors at the Nashville Convention the price of the Magazine is now \$1.00 to non-members of the Society who wish to purchase a single copy. To our members it is 75 cents per copy. This has been brought about by increased costs of labor and materials as well as postage. At that price it is a rare bargain too! Where else could you get so much practical information on the African violet as the African Violet Magazine? Where else could you find so many fine advertisements grouped in one publication describing the newest and best . . . Then it is our official Society mouthpiece and in it you and you may set forth your pet ideas and growing practices . . . the Magazine is you . . . and you the members of this Society write the stories and determine the quality of what is published. All of which brings to mind -- Have you a story others would profit by? The pages are open to you.

Sincerely,







Mrs. Gross is pictured on the left with her Pink Delight which won the SILVER CUP and on the right with the Plant Stand Award given by the George C. Koch Co., to the 2nd best registered named variety in the show. Mrs. Gross won both 1st and 2nd honors.

Horticultural Achievement

Awards --- 1953



Mrs. E. L. Perdue of Nashville, winner of the Tinari Floral Gardens Award of \$25.00 for the best specimen of the registered named variety "Tinari's Pink Luster," is pictured with her prize winning plant.



Left —

For the second time Mrs. L. P. Hotchkiss of Peoria, Illinois won the Sweepstakes Silver Bowl Award given by Popular Gardening to the winner of the most blue ribbons, or firsts, in the Amateur division of the show.



Below —

Donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Held, Cleveland, Ohio a Tube Craft Floral Cart is proudly displayed by its winner Mrs. Ronald Reaume, Detroit, Michigan.



Above —

Mrs. J. C. Bamford, Nashville, Tennessee the winner of The Alma Wright Cash Award of \$25.00 for the best specimen plant of the white double Alma Wright.



Floyd Johnson, left and Montague Free, right receive their awards from Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chairman of the Awards Committee.

HONORARY AWARDS

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
OF AMERICA PRESENTS TO:

Floyd L. Johnson, the Honorary Life Membership for his devotion to the Society and its official publication the African Violet Magazine. As advertising manager his unstinted effort in making contacts in this field of endeavor has been beyond normal duty.

Florence A. Young Stilwell (posthumously) the Bronze Medal Certificate for her outstanding work with African violets by stimulating the interest in and expanding the culture of this plant under fluorescent lighting. So far as is known her two stories in the African Violet Magazine were the first published on growing African violets by artificial light which offers new opportunity for pleasure to many lovers of this house plant. The Society is most pleased to give a top award to a housewife but sincerely regrets it is posthumously given. Fay Stilwell's death was untimely -- July 2, 1951, Clinton, Connecticut.

Mary Parker and Mrs. Layson



Florence Foltz and Mrs. Layson



Montague Free, one of the foremost promoters of the Saintpaulia, the Bronze Medal Certificate for his fine book, "All About African Violets."

Doctor William Ernest Blauvelt (posthumously) the Bronze Medal Certificate for his invaluable achievement and service to African violet culture by his aggressive work with the spider mite insect pest. If it were not for his contribution to the development of sodium selenate and its use in the soil for systemic plant toxicity against the spider mite the African violet would not be the popular house plant it is today.

Maxine B. Wangberg, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for her invaluable service as club editor in coordinating the club reports for the African Violet Magazine.

Margaret V. Travis, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for her outstanding service to the 12,000 plus members of the Society for the practical contribution of keeping the alphabetical file cards.

Priscilla Landaker, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for her stimulating efforts and meritorious work toward the success of the past two Commercial Exhibits at the Annual Convention.

Harold Gifford Harvey, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for his work in the advancement of the African violet by his informative and well illustrated stories in the African Violet Magazine.

Florence T. Foltz, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for meritorious service to the Society for her contribution in accepting special story assignments for the African Violet Magazine.

Clarissa Harris, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for her pre-eminent organizational work on the Pacific Coast.

Ross W. Hahn, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for his generous service to the Society in making tape recordings of the programs at the 1952 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Mary P. Parker, the Honorary Annual (1 year) Membership Certificate for her untiring volunteer service rendered the Society by all the proof she has read for the African Violet Magazine.



Maxine Wangberg and Mrs. Layson



Priscilla Landaker, above and H. G. Harvey, below receive awards from Mrs. Layson.





Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Wheatley and Mrs. Dalton admire Mrs. Gross' prize-winning plant.

The People Behind The Scenes

Quixie Nichols, Madison, Tenn.

Several of you attended our Convention in Nashville and met a large number of the lovely people who made the 1953 Convention the wonderful meeting it was. Others of you were not so fortunate . . . Therefore I would like to tell you a little about the capable, efficient ladies who made our Convention such a marvelous success.

I will not attempt to list all members on the committees but I will give you the chairman and co-chairman of each and the clubs from which they came.

We are sure we made many mistakes; but when you consider that as a group we had never had a show, we are sure that you who attended will forgive any errors that were made.

Mrs. W. C. Dalton of the Inglewood African Violet Club was our gracious Convention Chairman with Mrs. Ralph Wheatley of the Donelson

African Violet Club as her Co-Chairman. Mrs. Dalton is also President of the Davidson County Council of African Violet Clubs.

Mrs. James B. Carey of Knoxville was our very capable Program Chairman. Mrs. Carey is the author of the African Violet Handbook on Judging and has taught numerous judging schools including one in Nashville.

Mrs. Charles Bradley of the Donelson Club was our Hospitality Chairman. Mrs. Bradley had two Co-Chairmen -- Mrs. W. B. Shoulders and Mrs. E. P. Radabaugh also from the Donelson Club.

Mrs. E. I. Tuck was in charge of registration with Mrs. Luke Sumner as her Co-Chairman. These ladies were from the First Saintpaulia Club..



Mrs. Bradley, Hospitality Chairman for the Convention.

Mrs. Gordon Turner, president of the Melrose African Violet Club, was in charge of information.

Miss Genevieve Boggs, of the First Saintpaulia Club, was in charge of both tours.

Two lovely teas were given -- at the end of each tour with Mrs. Tuck as hostess on Thursday and Mrs. Sumner as hostess on Saturday.

Mrs. J. T. Gill of the Inglewood Club was Guard Chairman with Mrs. John Lipscomb of the Woodmont African Violet Club as her Co-Chairman.

Publicity Chairman was Mrs. Armstrong Jones with Mrs. F. A. Taylor as Co-Chairman. Both ladies are members of the Nashville African Violet Club.

Decorations Chairman was Mrs. T. F. Smalling with Mrs. Floyd Jenkins and Mrs. Frank Vernon as Co-Chairman. These ladies are members of First Saintpaulia Society.

The speakers' table for the Thursday Night Dinner Meeting was decorated with a lovely arrangement of violets with silver candelabras. All other tables were decorated with attractive arrangements of iris.

For the Friday Night Banquet Meeting, the speakers' table was decorated with an elegant

arrangement of gladioli and snap-dragons again using silver candelabras. Beautiful arrangements of gladioli and snap-dragons were also used on all other tables. These were also used for the Saturday Luncheon Meeting.

Mrs. J. C. Bamford of the Nashville Club was Door Prize Chairman.

Mrs. Bamford had more than one-hundred-seventy door prizes which were given with the compliments of the following:

Marion Chemical Company — Marion, Ohio — eighteen packages of Dixco with samples for everyone.

American Fertilizer Co. — Marietta, Ohio — twelve bottles of Liquid-Vita.

United States Pumice Supply Co. — Los Angeles, California — two Plant masters.

Thompsons Publications — Memphis, Tennessee — two corsage frames.

Plant Marvel Laboratories — Chicago, Illinois — twelve packages of Pep-O-Plant.

Mrs. R. H. Pride — Riverwood Dr., Nashville, Tennessee — two lovely pieces of ceramic china which she made.

Armour Fertilizer Co. — Nashville, Tennessee — twenty-four five lb. packages of Vertagreen.

Scotts' Seed and Garden Supply — Nashville, Tennessee — six cans of Wonder Garden Spray.

Alma Wright — Knoxville, Tennessee — six pieces of violet china.

Mrs. Mary Meeds and Mr. R. G. Baxter each gave four lovely pieces of china.

The following gave plants to be used as door prizes:

Ulery's Greenhouse — Springfield, Ohio — Six Pink Wonder.

Tinari's Floral Gardens — Bethayres, Pennsylvania — Twelve Pink Luster.

J. A. Peterson and Son — Cincinnati, Ohio — Sixteen violets and Episcias.

Behnke's Nurseries — Beltsville, Maryland — Six All-Aglow.

Granger Gardens — Wadsworth, Ohio — twelve assorted violets.

Mrs. Sam O. Nichols — Madison, Tennessee — Two Boyce Eden violets.

Fischer's Greenhouses — Linwood, New Jersey — Twelve large assorted violets.

Hoover Soil Service — Gilmon, Illinois — Gave nice samples of Collidal Phosphate for everyone.

Harvey's — Nashville's largest department store — Gave complimentary samples of Helena Rubenstein's Apple Blossom Cologne for everyone at the Banquet Meeting.

May we take this opportunity to again say many, many thanks to all of you who so generously contributed door prizes.

Now I would like to tell you about the people who were responsible for putting on the largest Amateur Show ever held at a National Convention; and from all the reports I could hear, the nicest one we ever had.

Mrs. L. C. Gross of the Nashville Club was our very capable Show Chairman, Mrs. B. F. Ford, former president of the Woodmont Club, was her Co-Chairman.

The very efficient Staging and Properties Chairman was Mrs. Frank Staley of the Melrose Club with Mrs. O. G. Maddux of the Nashville Club as her Co-Chairman.

Entries Chairman was Mrs. Frances Cord of the Donelson Club with Mrs. W. T. Moores of Inglewood as her Co-Chairman.

Classification Chairman was Mrs. James I. Sally of Woodmont Club with Mrs. R. L. Bain of Wilson County African Violet Club and Mrs. E. L. Perdue of Inglewood as her Co-Chairman. Judge's Clerks were Mrs. W. D. Schmutz with Mrs. Robert Regg as her Co-Chairman. Both ladies are members of the Inglewood Club.



Mrs. Staley, Staging Chairman, and Mrs. Gross, Show Chairman discuss the Show.



Ruth Carey, Program Chairman, was introduced at the Thursday night Dinner Meeting.

In charge of watering and care were Mrs. Owen Duckworth and Mrs. E. S. Pruett, both members of the Nashville Club.

The Davidson County Council of African Violet Clubs were delighted to be host to the National Convention and we are eagerly looking forward to again meeting all of you in St. Louis in 1954.

THE END

Hostesses for the two teas were Mrs. Tuck and Mrs. Sumner, pictured below.



The Great Moment

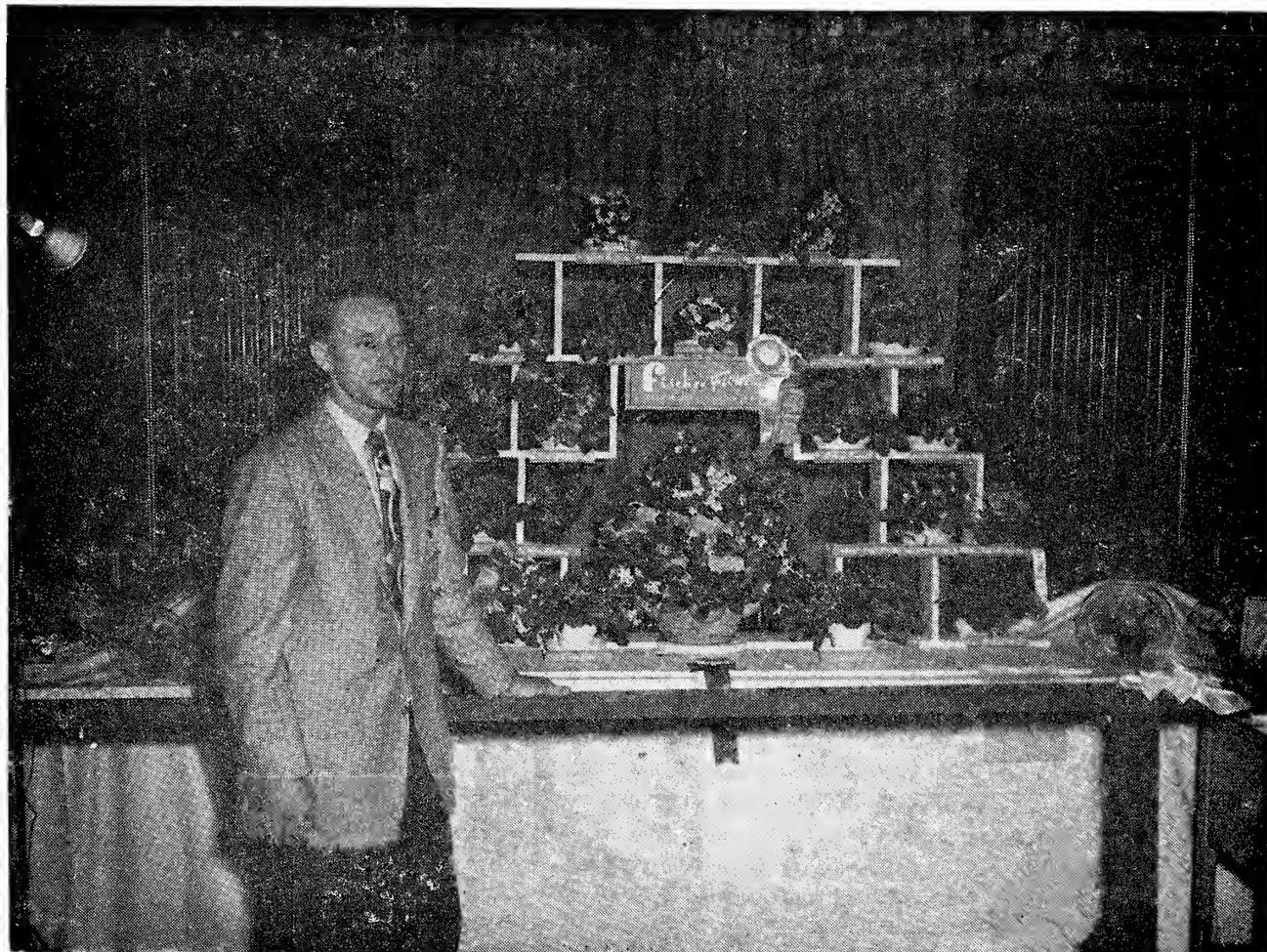
Ella Carter, Highlands, N. C.

At ten o'clock on Thursday evening April 30, 1953, the Ball Room of the Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee opened to exhibit the year's best African violets. Everyone attending the Convention had been impatiently awaiting this moment to view the gems of the amateur and commercial growers. The excitement was justified. Never have four walls held such an array of beautifully grown and groomed plants both old and new.

Mrs. John A. Landaker, Cincinnati, Ohio, Chairman of the Commercial Exhibits once again successfully arranged an outstanding Commercial Show for all to enjoy.

Eight prominent growers presented the choicest of the choice. Obviously the past year had been a most productive one for all concerned. A brief glance at the eight growers, alphabetically, spotlighted: Behnke's with a lush pink called "All Aglow;" Brown's with an enviable pink, "Uncle Bob;" Gent's with a repeat performance with "Pink Cheer;" Fischer's with the very exciting "Silver Lining;" Granger's with an ethereal "White Madonna;" Peterson's with exquisite "Peaches and Cream;" Tinari's with the magnificent "Frilled Du Pont;" and Ulery's with the elegant "Pink Wonder."

Looking more closely at each exhibit and the ribbons won by each the reader is reminded of the six classes.



Paul Rockelman with the Fischer display.

Paul Slough looks over the lovely Ulery Greenhouse exhibit at the National Convention.



Class 1 All exhibits to be judged. Blue -- first, Red -- second, White -- third.

Class 2 Best grown group of plants either new or old varieties not less than 15 plants.

Class 3 Best staged exhibit.

Class 4 Seedlings actually hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given exhibitor and not previously exhibited or judged.

Class 5 Sport or Mutant to have been discovered by exhibitor or persons connected with business. Not previously judged or exhibited.

Class 6 Only winners in Class 4 and 5 to participate in Class 6.



Henry Peterson of Peterson Greenhouses, who featured the new variety "Peaches and Cream."



Mrs. Grace Eyerdom used pastel plants for the clever arrangement of Granger Gardens, Inc.

Behnke Nurseries of Beltsville, Maryland presented a table abounding with African violets, one lovelier than the other. "All Aglow" was outstanding. Little wonder that it won both the Blue and Red ribbon in Class 1. It is a different but excellent pink -- slightly coral in tone, having pleasing growing habits, the foliage is of the bronze type. Third place in this class went to "Fantasy Girl" which is the well known "Fantasy" except for the new bronze girl foliage. "All Aglow" won a White ribbon in Class 4. There is reason to look forward to the Behnke exhibit in St. Louis next year.

The R. A. Brown & Son Company of Newnan, Georgia were represented by Mrs. Brown and her son who was particularly delighted with the honors given their "Uncle Bob" the blue ribbon in Class 1, while their Brown's Double Giant" received the red ribbon and "Silver Spoon" won the white ribbon in the same class. Any report would be incomplete without mention of three other plants which captured many eyes, "Bridal Wreath," "Applause" and "Great Dane." These varieties proved their popularity by the number of persons who purchased them from the Sales Room. The Brown exhibit was effectively based around a three tier Pyramid Garden customarily used for strawberries. Look for many new seedlings from Brown's.



Mrs. Paul Rockelman, the attractive wife of the Fischer representative.

Fischer Flowers of Linwood, New Jersey sent a friendly crew with their exhibit. The well known and a favorite figure at National Conventions Paul Rockelman, whose pretty wife accompanied him, headed the crew. The joint efforts of Fischer's and their personnel set up a pageant of violets fully deserving the extravagant admiration of the crowds and the Blue Rosette for the best staged exhibit -- Class 3. It consisted of multiple shadow boxes, each containing a specimen plant perfectly sized, all of which surrounded a Strawberry Urn which overflowed with prolifically blooming plants. Darker shaded plants were used to focalize the lighter colors concentrated in the upper center of the urn. The urn was a stunning exhibit by itself but so placed as it was, it added a certain artistic touch which made the overall exhibit one of perfect proportional balance. Some plants were displayed within glass bowls while others were in most attractive clay pots painted white. Background colors were lavender and white.

In Class 1 Fischer's won their Blue ribbon on "Silver Lining," a double light blue with a white edge; Red ribbon was won for the double reddish bloom with a white edge called "Edna Fischer" and the White Ribbon was won for "Blue Butter-

cup," a light blue with white petals on reverse side. "Blue Bell" joined "Silver Lining" and "Blue Buttercup" for three Red ribbons in Class 4 -- the seedling division. "Silver Lining" added a White ribbon to its laurels in Class 6 -- best of sports and mutations. Indications evidenced in the Sales Room showed the greatest interest divided between "Silver Lining" and "Edna Fischer" while "Eclipse" seemed a close second. Others displayed deserving of your attention were "Snow Line," "Moon Ripples," "Silhouette," and the ever favorite "Alma Wright." One seedling as yet unnamed caused a furor of comment, it was a deep rich lavender double which seemed to open so completely as to be striking and eye-catching.

"Bill" Gent brought the John R. Gent & Son of Webster, New York exhibit to Nashville. Bill took five ribbons home to his father whom we are glad to report is recovering from his recent illness. "Pink Cheer" was responsible for all ribbons, unusual as it is for such a repeat performance. All three ribbons in Class 1, Blue ribbon in Class 2 for the best grown group, and the White Rosette in Class 3 -- staging of exhibit -- these made the total of richly deserved honors. In some contrast, but with elegant simplicity, Bill Gent made an exciting array of "Pink



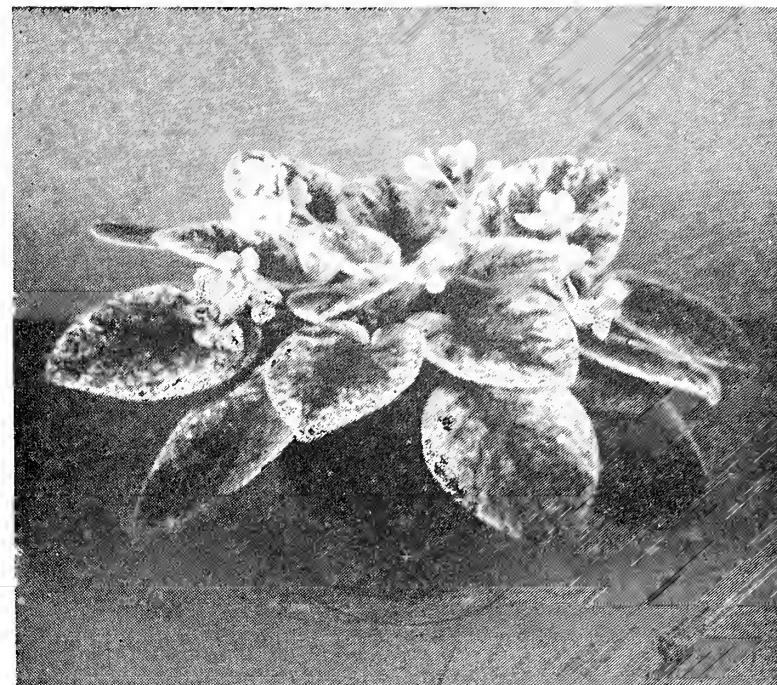
Frank Tinari and lovely daughter Clementine, for whom Tinari Floral Gardens spring introduction was named.

"Cheers" which made many viewers think of a parade of this favorite pink African violet. Bill Gent was particularly popular and many were happy to know him better.

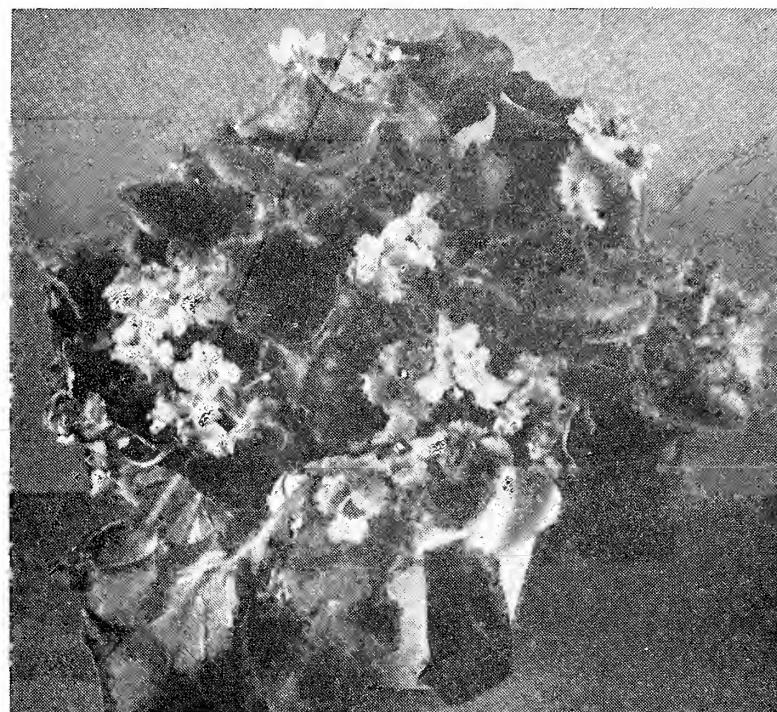
Granger Gardens, Inc. of Wadsworth, Ohio presented a "Symphony of Violets" arranged by Mrs. Grace Eyerdom who very cleverly used the pastel plants, all of like size and blending in perfect harmony, to flank a lighted shadow box which featured the new and lovely double white "White Madonna." Words fail to describe how this plant differs from other white doubles, it must be seen. "Fleur Petite" made many people think of the famous Lily Pons. Both White Madonna and Fleur Petite will be musts on every collector's list. Other outstanding plants surrounding the stars were "Rainbow King," "Hildegard," "Lil Angel," "Eclipse," "Dainty Duchess," "Robin-hood," and "Sir Lancelot." It was obvious that "White Madonna" take the Blue Ribbon, "Fleur Petite" the Red Ribbon and "Rainbow King," the White Ribbon in Class 1. The Red Rosette was won by Grangers in Class 2 for the group of well grown plants. The exhibit itself won the Red Rosette as well it should for its lovely airy and harmonious composition. Further honors won were: in Class 4-seedlings, Red Ribbon for "Fleur Petite;" in Class 5 Blue Ribbon for "White Madonna" and the Red Ribbon for "White Madonna," White Ribbon for "Fleur Petite" in Class 6. A little bird said there were even lovelier things in the offing from this source.

The National Convention's good friend Henry Peterson of the J. A. Peterson & Son, Cincinnati, Ohio brought an array of the best sellers of the past season plus two remarkable introductions as evidenced by the Class 1 honors they received, namely: The Blue for "Peaches and Cream" a perfect name for this peach and white plant which should be most popular for its profuse blooming habits and the lovely dark foliage, the Red Ribbon went to "Double One" a super size double blue having very heavy dark foliage, the White Ribbon was given to "King Neptune" also well described by its title. An un-named seedling, bi-color, created attention according to the questions asked about it. "Henry" included a collection of Gesneriads in the array which were extremely popular and in good demand. Among these were Slipper Gloxinias, Columneas and Trichosporums. It seemed particularly fitting that the Specie plants be available for exhibition at the annual convention. Dwight Smith who along with Mrs. E. R. Lotz accompanied Henry Peterson confirmed the idea that Petersons have some fascinating hybrids. It had been hoped that the Peterson exhibit would concentrate its volume on these seedlings. They would be well worth the seeing.

As usual, Tinari Floral Gardens of Bethayres, Pennsylvania intrigued all the spectators. It seemed necessary for everyone to linger longer in front of this tastefully arranged table. One was afraid of missing something special. The "Frilled du Pont" unquestionably caught the fancy of the public as well as of the connoisseur.

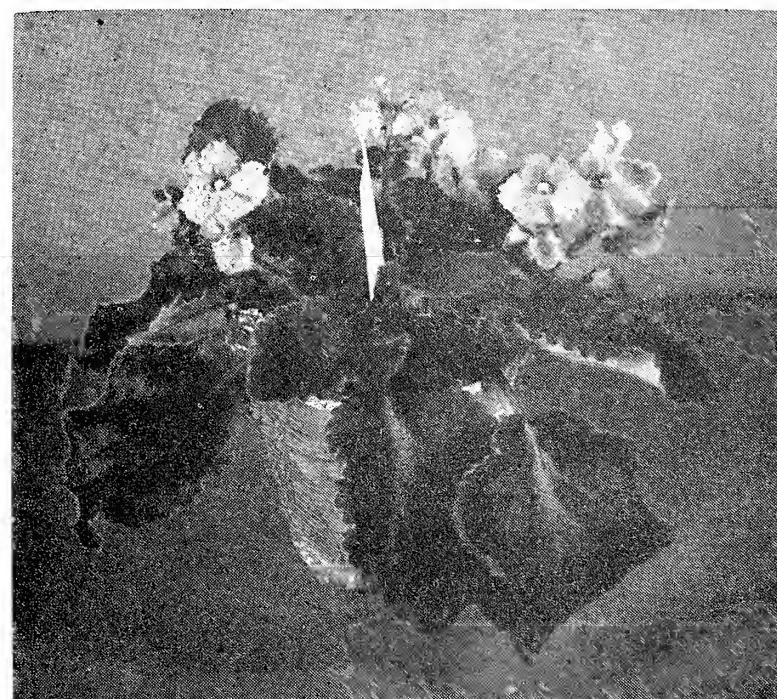


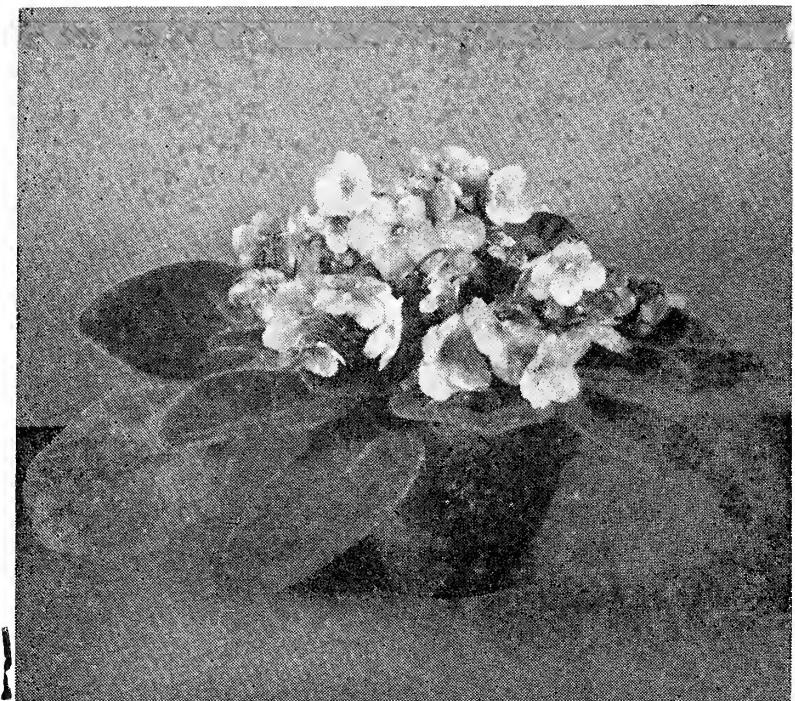
Above — Ulery's Wintergreen



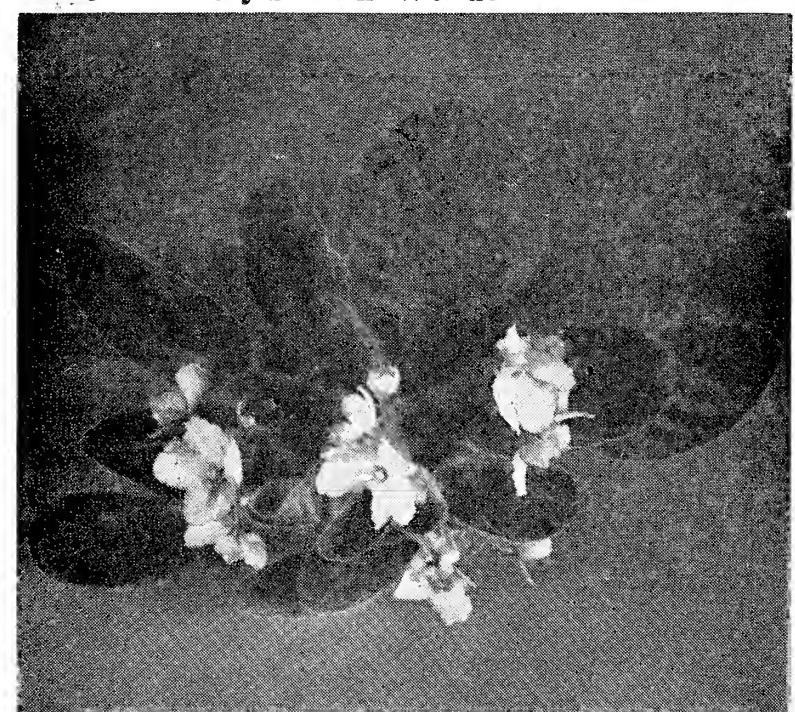
Above — Fischer's Blue Reflection

Below — Granger Gardens Frau Merei





Above — Ulery's Pink Wonder



Above — A white and orchid seedling from the Ulery display.

Below — Fischer's Edna Fischer.



As its name implied, du Pont foliage with a frilled bloom, this outstanding plant won the Blue Ribbon in Class 1 while "America" again captured laurels by winning the Red Ribbon. "Navy Bouquet" took the white ribbon in this class. The White Rosette in Class 2 -- group of plants -- was won by Tinaris. Mary Mayer, a niece of the Tinaris entered a plant called "Blue Tiara" as an individual entry thereby winning a Blue Ribbon. Viewers were overheard repeatedly to exclaim, "Lovely, just lovely," in front of the Tinari Display. Side-light of note -- there were several unusually beautiful specimens of both "America" and "Pink Luster" in Amateur division of the Show.

Last but far from least, Ulery Greenhouses, Inc. of Springfield, Ohio sent "Pink Wonder" to Nashville for its debut. The guiding, capable hands of Paul Slough presented tiers of identical, beautifully symmetrical plants. The result was a concentrated impression. "Pink Wonder" will be a must for all collectors. It, like several others this year, is exactly what its name implies. Of course a Blue Ribbon went to this plant, the Red Ribbon went to "Blue Ohio" and the White Ribbon to "Frosty" in Class 1. Ulerys received a Red Rosette in Class 2, a Blue Ribbon for "Pink Wonder" in Class 4, a Red Ribbon for "Appealing" in Class 5 as well as a White Ribbon in the same class for an un-named orchid and white plant. As if Springfield hadn't captured honors aplenty "Pink Wonder" walked away with the Blue Ribbon for the best Sport or Mutation for the Class 6 award.

Ulerys had "Paul," as he is affectionately known to all, set up a punch bowl to receive suggestions for a name for a new seedling placed beside the bowl. The plant was a most interesting one having very light foliage speckled with dark green, the blossom was a double white. Miss Daisy Jones, 1327 Sterick Building, Memphis, Tennessee was the winner with the name "Wintergreen" for this new variegated violet. Miss Jones will receive the first plant released by Ulerys and be recognized as the winner.

Mrs. Paul Slough, who accompanied her husband to Nashville, nearly stole the show when she appeared with the two Slough boys of true blue ribbon calibre.

Mrs. Helen Pochurek of Solon, Ohio won a Blue Ribbon for her entry of "Double Snow Queen." Mr. Henry Ten Hagen of Warsaw, New York also won a Blue Ribbon, his award was for "Painted Boy."

The Commercial Sales Room was located on the Mezzanine of the Hermitage Hotel. This spot was the hub of great activity as buyers scrambled to buy choice plants from the Growers. Mrs. Dorothy Lykes of East Bethany, New York had a table selling violet accessories and a plant called "Jumbo Pink." Mrs. Edwin Anderson of Lansing, Michigan sold leaves of her "Crested" Collection.

Plant Marvel of Chicago, Illinois had a busy stand as did two other fertilizer companies, the Atlas Fish Fertilizer Company of San Francisco,



Above: From Behnke's display — A tray of All Aglow — a lovely deep pink with "girl" foliage.

California and the Feralon Division, Oswego Soy Products Company of Oswego, New York. The latter, very generously gave each registering member to the convention a sample bottle of their product.

The Green Hills Garden Store had an interesting and practical assembly of plant growing accessories. This concession was a Nashville concern.

Nashville compensated for its limited quarters by offering a sincere friendliness. In the midst of the usual confusion the local chapter members and employees of the Hotel were constantly on the alert to be helpful and pleasant. It can be truly said that this Convention was more intimate and more friendly than previously experienced.

The cost of increased growth seems to be the necessity for choosing larger cities in the future in order to offer adequate facilities to all. If the rumored plans materialize the St. Louis Convention should offer everything that is to be desired.

It is earnestly hoped that more commercial growers will participate in the exhibit in 1954. Certainly the opening of the Exhibit doors is the exciting moment.

It should be remembered that such an exhibit unlike the proverbial Topsy did not just happen. Credit for the entire project belongs to Mrs. John A. Landaker of Cincinnati, Ohio where she is president of the Queen City African Violet Society. Her untiring efforts in preparation, her direction in staging and continuous co-operation deserves high praise, as does her committee.

No one except Mrs. Landaker -- Priscilla to most people, was surprised that her efforts were rewarded by an Honorary Annual Membership Certificate Award. No other was more deserved.

To those most vitally concerned it is a great satisfaction to report that Priscilla has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Commercial and Sales Exhibits for the St. Louis Show in 1954.

PRIZE WINNERS AND WINNING NAMES IN THE "GIVE-A-NAME" CONTEST SPONSORED BY FISCHER FLOWERS AT THE NATIONAL AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY CONVENTION AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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Mrs. R. B. Proctor
1047 Stewart Avenue
Florence, Alabama

SECOND PRIZE — VELVET GLOW

Mrs. Roy Rogers
1500 Woodmont Blvd.
Nashville, Tenn.

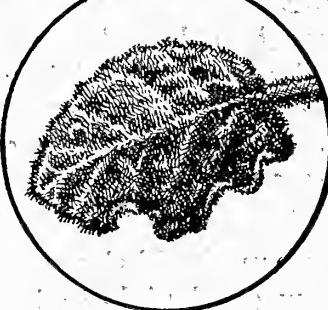
THIRD PRIZE — BOUNTIFUL

Mrs. H. N. Hansen
Box 302
Lafayette, Calif.

THE END

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Tiny insects make leaves curl, plants shrivel and blooms stop. Quick-acting Marvel Spray gives the protection every plant needs.



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Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Mfg. Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose Growers"). 514-93 Ogen Bldg. Beacon, N. Y.

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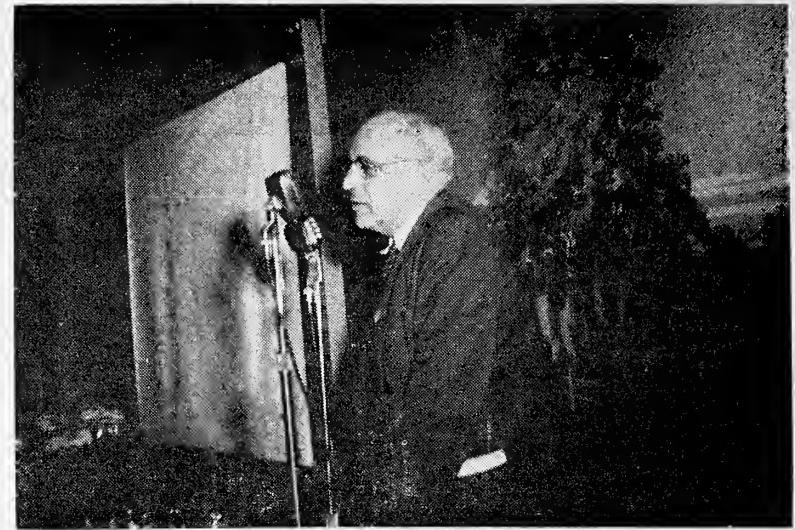
The Fluorescent Way

H. G. Harvey, Dunwoody, Georgia

The question of light for African violets is the most exasperating and unsatisfactory feature of their culture. On almost every other phase of the subject, fairly definite instructions or practices are available and almost any intelligent individual with the proper urge and desire can grasp enough of the principles so that even without any previous experience he can stay close enough to the beam on his initial attempt to at least avoid flat failure. But, obtaining the proper amount of light is different. North exposure, or South, or East, or West, no direct sunlight or a little direct sunlight; foot candles -- something he never heard of before -- of 500, or 1000, or 1300, all put his head in a whirl. Generally it is not a question of what is ideal lighting, but rather how far can you deviate from this ideal and still get satisfactory flowers. You have certain lighting conditions and there is not very much you can do about it. If the conditions are good enough you grow good violets; if they are not, you can't and that's that.

Here is where the tragedy comes in. You and I have known a number of people who started out in a burst of enthusiasm and hope to grow African violets. Because of improper lighting they failed. This was either because they did not pick out the right exposure or because they did not have the right exposure to pick out. So they give up. "African violets just won't grow for me" they say, and another individual loses the pleasure and joy that growing African violets could give them.

That is where fluorescent lighting shows up at its best. The forty watt fluorescent tube has changed the lighting picture. It is forty eight inches long, and can be either "white" or "day-light." Two of these tubes go into a reflecting fixture which is about five feet long. All you have to do is to get two of these tubes (they cost about a dollar and a quarter a piece) and a two tube reflecting fixture (somewhere between twelve and fifteen dollars) and you are in the fluorescent business. You better tell the man that you want an attachment cord on the fixture so that



Mr. Harvey as he speaks on fluorescent lighting.

you can plug it into a socket, since quite often these fixtures are mounted on a ceiling like a regular ceiling light fixture, and an attachment cord is not required.

Hang the fixture from the ceiling anywhere in your house (except in direct sunshine), push a table, any table, under it and adjust the fixture so that the actual tubes are from fifteen inches to eighteen inches above your table, put a couple of dozen African violets on the table, under the light -- and you are all set. It is as simple as that, the only complicated thing is getting the two tube fixture. Every morning you put the plug in, every evening you pull it out, and you have a thoroughly satisfactory lighting system for your violets. It would take nearly a genius to go far enough wrong in following those simple rules to produce a total lighting failure.

I am not going to argue the relative merits of plants grown under natural and fluorescent lighting. They grow differently, and one can tell by looking at the plant which kind of lighting it has had. Both methods produce gorgeous plants, or, more accurately, gorgeous plants can be grown under both lighting conditions. The best plants I have ever seen were grown under natural light, and the poorest I have ever seen have also been grown under sunlight. Probably the average quality of those plants grown under fluorescents is a little higher than those grown in sunlight. But the two schemes are not competitive, they are complementary. Neither one will ever push the other out of the picture, but both, combined, will result in more and better plants being grown in the future by more people than have been grown in the past.

There are two warnings or precautions to observe when using fluorescents. In the first place, where there is light, there is heat. When you get close to the light, you get close to the heat, and you get too close to the heat long before you get too close to the light. Keep the top leaves of your plants six inches or more away from the tubes and you will be all right. The second warning is that plants need fresh air. They are more nearly



Mrs. Phillip Genntison, of North Atlanta, Georgia has been raising violets continuously on this two decker table since 1949. Data: Illumination, two fluorescent two tube reflecting fixtures on each shelf, each containing two 40 watt "Daylight" tubes, actual distance from the tubes to the table 17 inches. Dimensions of table, 39" x 78". Illumination, 200 foot candles on table, 300 foot candles at leaf level, 6" above table.

Mrs. Frank Wheeler, of Atlanta, Georgia raises show plants with incandescent lighting. Data: Illumination, three 100 watt incandescent lights spaced three feet apart, actual distance from bulbs to table, 22½". Dimensions of table, 9 feet by thirty-three inches. Illumination intensity, 75 to 100 foot candles on the table, 100 to 125 foot candles at leaf level, 9" above table.



fresh air fiends than are humans. With natural light this is seldom a problem, but when you put your fluorescents in the basement, watch for the fresh air. If the air seems stuffy or musty to you, it is not satisfactory for your violets. There simply must be outside windows in your basement to make it suitable for violet growing. This condition can be corrected by using a fan to bring in fresh air, sort of like the exhaust fan in your kitchen working backwards.

A time switch is a luxury and a convenience, but it is not a necessity. A time switch is something like an alarm clock, only when it goes off, instead of ringing a bell it turns on the lights. There is another adjustment which turns off the lights. These two adjustments can be set independently for any times desired, so I reckon you could call a time switch a sort of double barreled alarm clock with a twenty-four hour dial. It costs roughly about as much as another light fixture, so when there are only one or two fixtures the percent cost to turn them off and on automatically instead of by hand is relatively high. When your establishment has grown to five or six (they can all be handled by one switch) a time switch may become attractive. I will guarantee that it will do a more regular job than you will do by hand, and also that it will keep on working while you are out of town.

The two forty watt tube fixtures give about 300 foot candles illumination when mounted about ten inches from the leaves you are trying to

illuminate. If your plant is in a four inch pot which is four inches high, and the leaves are two inches higher than the edge of the pot, and you want 300 foot candles on those leaves, your tube should be sixteen inches above the table. The intensity of the light varies greatly with the distance from the tube. With my fixture I get:

450 foot candles at 6 inches
400 foot candles at 7 inches
300 foot candles at 10 inches
200 foot candles at 16 inches
100 foot candles at 24 inches

These figures vary widely with different fixtures, but in every case one inch up or down makes a lot of difference in the illumination. For the good old standard 300 foot candles, you want about 10 inches from the tube to the leaves of your plant.

The light intensity is measured with a light meter. It measures foot candles. This is not an exposure meter. Every salesman you talk to will think you want an exposure meter, and will try to sell you one. Very few of them will know what a light meter is. This is because the retail salesmen sell hundreds of exposure meters to one light meter. But the same people manufacture them who manufacture exposure meters, and the salesman in the photographic supply stores can look them up in the big catalogue and order them for you. You want a light meter that will read from zero to 1000 foot candles. They give you an instrument that has a scale reading from 0 to 100

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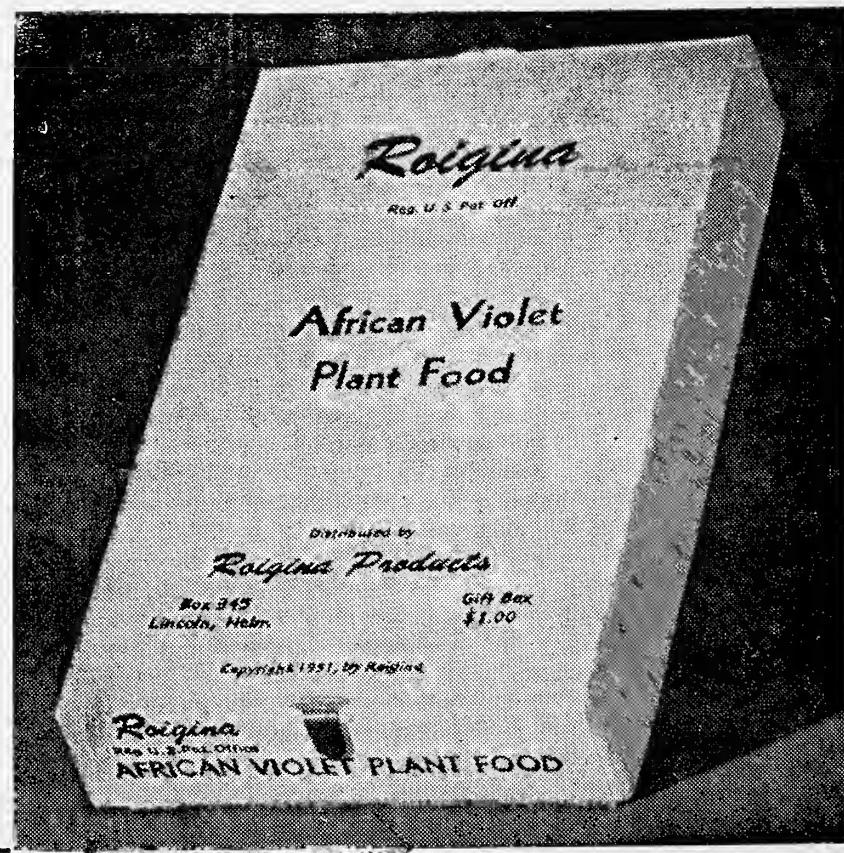
54 capsules \$1.00 prepaid

Free folder on care and culture of African Violets included

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foot candles and then they give you a shield to put on the end that shuts out nine tenths of the light, so that you can multiply the actual reading by ten to get the true value. General Electric Company and the Weston Instrument Company are two people who manufacture them. They sell for somewhere around twenty-five or thirty dollars, and you do not really need one. You can call up your local electric light company and tell them you want a lighting salesman who can tell you how much light you are getting and they will send you out a young man with a light meter and a glib tongue to tell you what you want to know.

The two forty watt white or daylight fluorescent tube fixture is the good old reliable African violet standard. Mounted with the tubes from a foot to two feet above the table, it will cover a table area of about six feet long by one and a half to two feet wide. If the lights are turned on twelve hours every day, you will be able to obtain beautiful plants provided you properly handle the other elements of the growing technique. So why change? The answer to that is that the African violet amateurs are the most rugged individualists and the most intrepid experimenters I have ever had anything to do with. A big part of the fun of being an amateur is that you can experiment, try new things, something different, and get more thrills.

So we experiment. First, let's talk about more illumination. There are two ways to get more illumination, either by keeping the lights on a longer time, or by using brighter lights. In the classic experiments at Ohio State reported by Mr. Hanchey in the June, 1952 issue of the Magazine, it was shown that 18 hours of light would give more flowers than 12 hours. At 300 foot candles the increase was about 25% or $\frac{1}{4}$. I have not found any amateurs regularly using 18 hours, probably because very few of them have time switches and very few of them stay up 18 hours, so that they are not up to turn the lights on and off that far apart. Some of them are using more than 12 hours, turning the lights on just as soon as they get up and turning them off when they go to bed, getting perhaps 14 or 15 hours. Practically all of them are doing this on special occasions, when the flowering drops off or is not satisfactory for any reason.

The other way to get more illumination is with brighter lights. This means a bigger tube, an eighty-five or ninety watt tube. This tube is about five feet long, a foot longer than the forty watt tube and is nearly twice as big in diameter. It looks like a real husky affair, and it is. It uses over twice as much electricity, and delivers over twice as much light. A reflecting fixture containing two ninety watt tubes will give 600 foot candles illumination on African violet leaves twelve inches below the tube. Mr. Hanchey found that six hours a day of this lighting would give practically as many flowers as twelve hours a day of the 300 foot candle illumination. Twelve hours a day of 600 foot candle lighting gives



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SPECIAL: Second generation Grotei hybrid seed. Having used Pink Girl and Buttons 'n' Bows in the first cross, these seeds should yield some new and completely different types. A generous packet with full instructions for planting Postpaid \$2.00

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AVAILABLE AFTER FIRST OF
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ALSO "DOUBLE ONE"

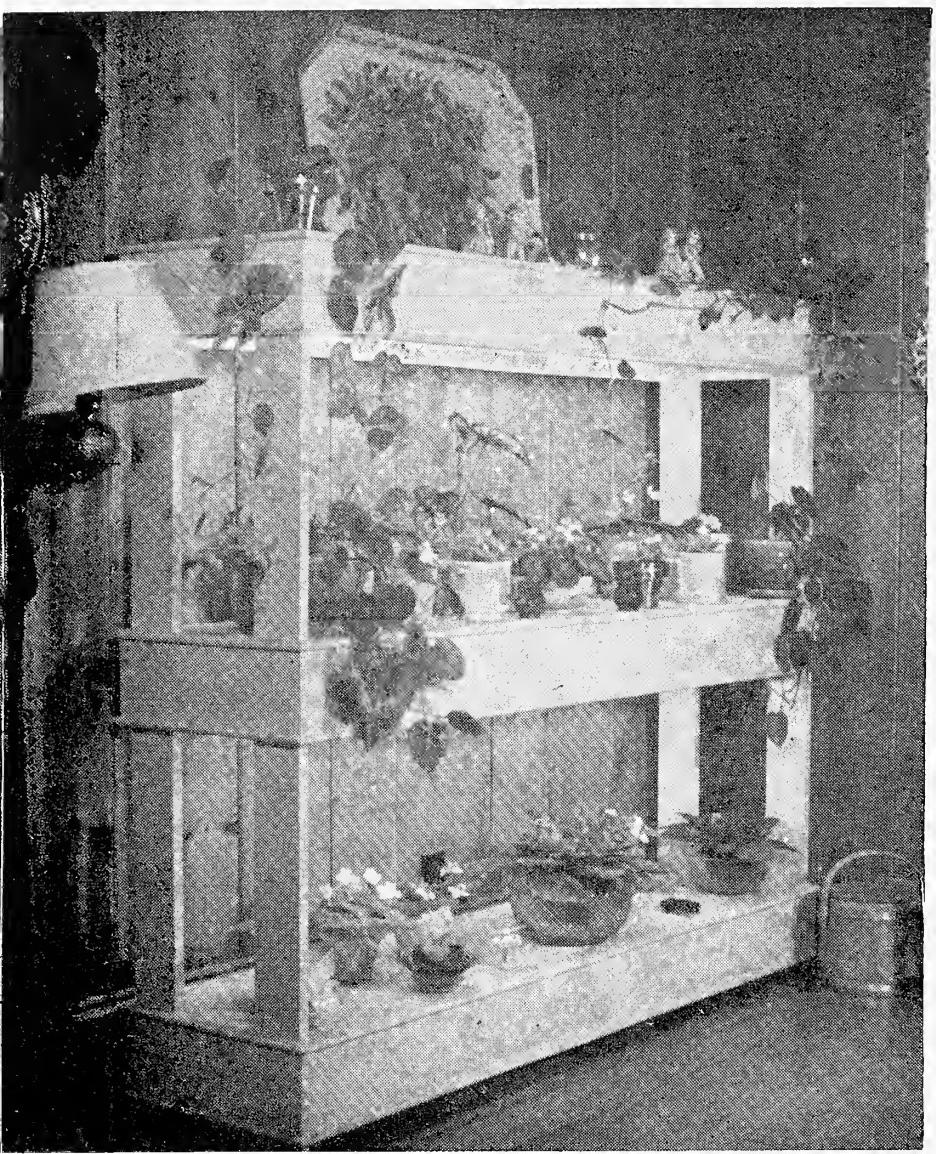
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WHOLESALE ONLY



A bookcase style fluorescent stand placed against a living room wall. Data: Illumination, two fluorescent non-reflecting fixtures placed end to end above each shelf each fixture holds two 20 watt "White" tubes, actual distance from tubes to shelf, 22". Dimensions of shelf, 16" x 60". Illumination intensity, 100 foot candles on the shelf, 175 foot candles at leaf level, 6" above the shelf.

over twice as many flowers as does 300 foot candles for the same length of time. You would think that the amateurs would jump at this, but my observation is that they haven't. I have been unable to find a single amateur installation of ninety watt fluorescents. There are, perhaps, three reasons for this. First: 300 foot candles are doing a good job, so why change? If I know my amateurs, this is not a good reason. Second: 600 foot candle illumination is relatively new, it was first announced and described at the Chicago Convention, in 1952, about a year ago now. Third: it costs a lot more, and maybe this has been the biggest stumbling block. When you get up to ninety watt tubes, you are getting into heavy industrial stuff, built for factories rather than residences, and it costs money. The heavy duty industrial fixture costs thirty to forty dollars. I have not as yet found any light duty fixtures for the ninety watt tubes, although I am sure that there are some which could cut this price down. The tubes cost \$2.55 a piece, or \$5.10 for the two. In a twelve hour day, the two tubes will burn something over two kilowatt hours, as contrasted with less than one kilowatt hour for

two forty watt tubes. If we guess that your electricity is costing a cent and a half per kilowatt hour, which is probably as good an average country wide figure as we can pick out of the air, a forty watt fixture will cost you about a cent and a half a day to run, while a ninety watt fixture will cost you a little over three cents a day.

So much for increased illumination. The usual way of getting decreased illumination is by the use of twenty watt tubes. These tubes are a little less than two feet long, and the fixture is under three feet in length. They are the things to use when you want a short table, and when the five or six foot table used with the forty watt tubes is not acceptable. It goes very nicely over a three foot table about eighteen inches wide. At ten inches distance from the tube, where the forty watt fixture gives about 300 foot candles, the fixture containing two twenty watt tubes gives about 250 foot candles. Three hundred foot candles can be obtained by putting the leaves six inches from the tube, and the leaves would probably stand this without burning. However, the amateur practice seems to be to go the other way, putting the leaves of the African violets about twelve inches away, where you get about 200 foot candles light intensity. The violets grow very nicely under these conditions, and I have been unable to tell any difference between them and those grown under forty watt lights. I guess what I mean is that variations in the other elements of the culture can quite easily change the overall results, and that the difference in light intensities has a much smaller effect on the final results than do changes in such things as fertilizers, watering, and general care. At any rate, the use of the fixture containing two twenty watt fluorescents seems to be increasing, and I look for this trend to continue.

You can grow violets under incandescent lights too, fluorescents do not have any monopoly. The heat of the incandescent lights becomes a major problem, and limits the lighting intensity to a considerably lower value than is the usual practice with fluorescents. The photograph (figure 2) shows an incandescent illuminated installation. It is in Mrs. Frank Wheeler's basement, in Atlanta. She raises very fine show plants under her incandescents, which look more nearly like plants grown in sunlight than those grown under fluorescents. The leaves are the bright green of daylight grown plants rather than the darker, nearly olive green, which is typical of fluorescent grown plants. Her plants are more upright in growth, as contrasted to the flat tendency of plants grown under fluorescents. The leaves seem to reach up to the light more, developing a very symmetrical form. There is some indication that a greater light intensity would help, but the deficiency is not serious, and does not prevent the growing of very superior plants. Her reflector is home-made. Mrs. Wheeler uses material from corrugated paper packing boxes, covered inside and out with aluminum foil. The aluminum

is pasted on the corrugated paper with library paste. One hundred watt incandescent lights are used, spaced three feet apart, twenty-four inches above the table. The table is nine feet long and thirty-three inches wide. A light meter gives from 75 to 80 foot candles of light intensity on the table. The leaves are about nine inches above the table, and at this level, where the leaves are actually getting their light, the illumination is from 100 to 125 foot candles. It is quite apparent that, with skillful handling, African violets can be grown with complete satisfaction in light of this intensity. However, it is near the lower limit of satisfactory illumination and requires more skill than does the greater intensities of the fluorescent way.

Figure 3 shows a fluorescent light plant stand built like a bookcase and placed against the wall. The lights are completely concealed by being placed behind a cornice board that extends down six inches from the shelf above it. It is a beautiful thing, and fits into the room wonderfully. It was built by Mr. Genntison, of North Atlanta, for his wife who is one of the leading exponents of fluorescent lighting for violets in the Atlanta area. The photograph does not give the correct impression, since it was taken with a flashlight and does not show how the high illumination of the plants contrasted with the lower illumination of the room draws attention to the plants like a lighted showcase. Wherever the stand is is inevitably the "point of interest" in the room, it can't help it. Interior decorators would shudder if it were placed in the wrong place in the room. I predict that more arrangements of this kind, with the stands against the wall rather than in the center of the room, will be built. Please notice that other plants than African violets are used in this arrangement. A large number of other plants enjoy it. Among these, are:

Gloxiniyas

Begonias (tuberous, Rex and all others)

Nearly all foliage plants -- ferns, coleus,

ivy

Petunias

Any wax plant, like Sultana

Succulents, cactus and the like

Dwarf roses, like Tom Thumb, Pixie and the like

Oxalis

Geraniums will grow, but will not bloom

This stand is illuminated by two fixtures placed end to end below each shelf, each fixture containing two twenty watt tubes. The shelves are sixteen inches wide, five feet long, twenty-two inches from the tube to the shelf. Illumination is 100 foot candles on the shelf, 175 foot candles six inches above the shelf, where most of the leaves are. The shelves are rather far apart to permit the use of plants higher than African violets. Mrs. Genntison says that violets grow better here than they do on her basement tables which have 300 foot candles illumination, probably because the air is better in her living room than it is in the basement. No reflecting fixtures are used on this stand. The two six inch cornice

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boards extending down from the shelf, together with the bottom of the shelf itself, form a reflecting box. All of these inside reflecting surfaces are painted white. The tubes are mounted in this box on simple mounting fixtures which simply hold them in position.

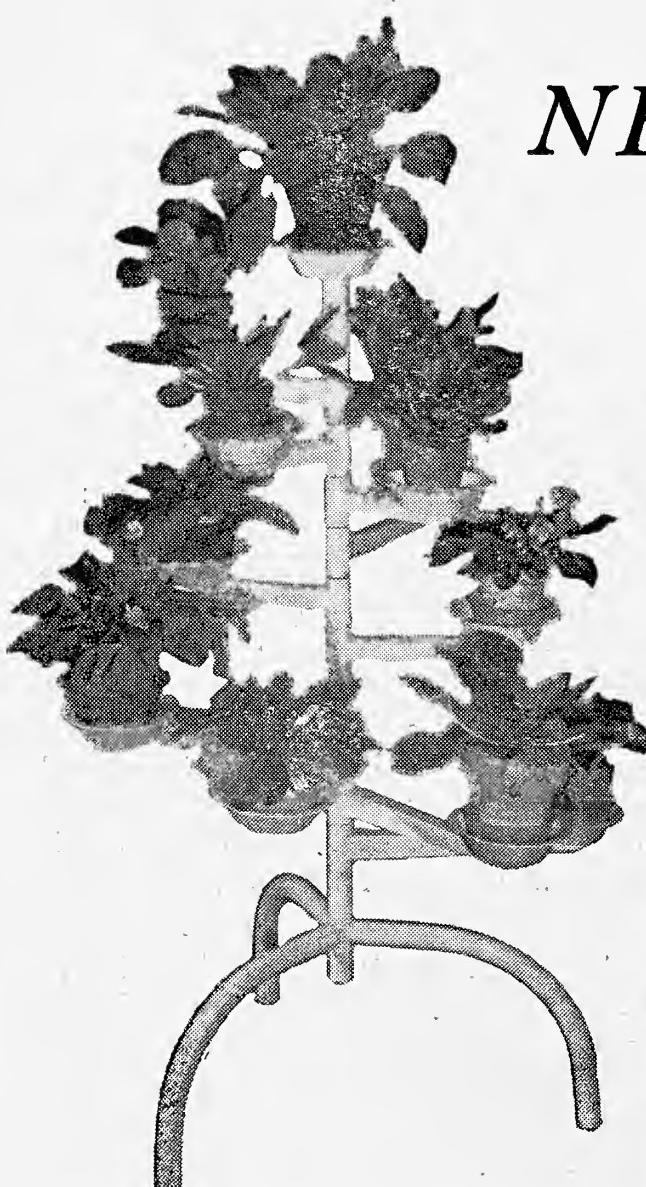
But the best fluorescent installation of the lot is one of which I have no picture. I have some friends on the other side of town. The wife had been trying to grow some African violets. Because of poor lighting conditions, she was not having any luck. Her violets were nothing to brag about. About this time, some of her friends organized an African Violet Society and asked her to join. She wanted to be with her friends but her self respect would not permit her to join until she could grow violets.

In this extremity, her husband thought of a fluorescent table lamp they had put away in the attic. They brought it out, put it on a circular table a little over two feet in diameter, grouped twelve or fifteen plants under the lamp, and the miracle happened. The plants grew and bloomed, the wife joined the club, and everyone was happy. Technically, this is a poor installation. The light is a thirty-two watt circular tube, about twelve inches in diameter, mounted sixteen inches from the table. The light intensity at the leaf level

varies from 250 foot candles in the middle to 175 at the edges. But judged by results, this is the best installation I have seen. It saved the day for one woman, enabled her to grow violets where she had not been able to before. It cleared the path for her to have more pleasure, more enjoyment and more satisfaction. In these days of stress and tension, anything that can do that, even for one person, is a success and well worthwhile, and to Thunder with foot candles, inches working levels, and the like.

So I would like to leave this discussion on that note. You folks with two hundred or five hundred plants, with half a dozen fluorescents, special houses and places for your violets are the backbone of the Society, and God bless you everyone. But I want to take the fluorescent message to the little fellow, to the housewife with ten or twenty plants in her window, struggling along to get just a few nice looking plants to lavish her affection on. I want to tell her that fluorescents are easy and simple. She doesn't have to be a scientist or a scholar to rig one up. And she -- with her husband, son or brother -- can make a fluorescent work. The money she spends on her first fluorescent will not be wasted. If proper lighting is her problem, fluorescents will give her the answer.

THE END



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Things That Count

Emily Hodan, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Friday morning's Convention Meeting, at which Ruth Dahnke presided, was devoted to "Things That Count." Four well known growers spoke on Light, Water, Food and Soil, and Pests -- each subject related in some specific way to "Things That Count" in raising our beloved Saintpaulias.

Our first speaker, Jean Crowe of Chattanooga, covered the subject of "Light." Jean was one of the organizers of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. at Atlanta in the fall of 1946. She has been growing Saintpaulias for fourteen years and at one time maintained a violet greenhouse but through an unkind fate, lost most of her plants in a disastrous fire. Undaunted, she rebuilt her collection and now grows them in her home.

Light, designated as natural light, is measured by foot candles. Saintpaulia research experiments by Richard Stinson, show that 1000 to 1100 foot candles are best for producing good plants and plenty of bloom. Actually, a certain number of

leaves on a plant must receive a certain amount of light from the sun to carry on photosynthesis, or food making process. Photosynthesis, in dictionary terms, is a plant process, by which, when light falls on active chlorophyll or the green coloring matter in leaves, food and possibly some hormones are manufactured in the plant.

In studying the effect of light on plants, it was found that some are directly affected by the length of daylight. Some, such as mums, are short day plants, while others such as Saintpaulias, being long day plants, need light for twelve hours or more to produce bloom.

Light can be directed or reflected. Water, snow, or white walls will sometimes reflect too much light and will burn the foliage. Of course, the ideal set-up calls for use of a light meter; but if you have no light meter, then use your plants as a guide. If they grow steadily and bloom well, then you need not worry. Jean shifts her plants from window to window to obtain the

Mrs. Hotchkiss, Mrs. Mayer, Mrs. Crowe and Mr. Tinari, speakers.





Mrs. Dahnke presides at the Friday morning meeting.

best results, as light varies considerably from month to month. Naturally, other things closely associated with the growth of a plant, such as food, water, and heat must be attended to. If, after these are worked out, one still has no bloom, then the answer is: Not enough light.

Mr. Montague Free suggested keeping plants in the best light available until they show buds, then shifting them to the next best light to make room for others.

It can all be summed up in this one sentence: Saintpaulias, being long-day plants, require at least twelve hours good strong light to grow and bloom well. It is up to each individual grower how to do it and maintain it to achieve success.

Mrs. H. Hotchkiss, of Peoria, Illinois, covered the second subject, "Watering." She was Sweepstakes winner at the amateur exhibit at the National Convention for the second consecutive year. In '52 she won the Sweepstakes Award at Chicago; this year she repeated at Nashville. Quite an achievement indeed!

She admitted being somewhat befuddled when a long distance call came through from Alma Wright at Knoxville, asking her to speak at the convention. She did accept the assignment, however, and so we in turn got the benefit of her knowledge and experience along this line.

First of all, she told us that if you have a few violets and an index finger that will register wet or dry, all one needs to do is test the soil in the top of the pot. If the soil feels dry, then water; if it is damp, do not water and wait to check again the next day. She believes that daily checks are necessary and that it is almost impossible to set aside one day, two days, or every other day in a week as watering day. The system may work for awhile but sooner or later one will run into difficulty such as crown rot, and the

soil becoming waterlogged. Sometimes if there is any doubt as to whether a plant is wet or dry when testing it, she lets the weather conditions guide her. If it is summer and the weather is muggy and wet, then she doesn't water. If it is winter and the plants are in the dry, furnace heated house, she waters.

She had some of her loveliest plants when she watered in saucers from below with boiling water. But she cautions, do NOT water from above with boiling water. Instead, use water of room temperature or a few degrees warmer. If watering from below, give enough water to completely dampen the top of the soil. Experience will show if one is giving enough or too little. After an hour or so, if the top of soil is moist but water still remains in the saucer, empty the dish of remaining water and the next time your plant is dry, give just a little less water.

Now there are people who differ from her methods of watering. They insist on top watering. She has used both ways and has gotten approximately the same results but she did find that by bottom watering she could use the boiling water which creates humidity that is so necessary for good bloom and healthy foliage. Also, the steam seems to keep the plants clean. She never washed her plants or syringed the foliage after she discovered the boiling water method. The aforementioned method works beautifully if one has just a few plants but if one continues to collect plants and the house is overflowing with them, then one must find other means of caring for them.

When the last available lamp table next to her husband's bed was covered with violets, she decided to place the top of one of his drafting tables over the lamp table to allow more surface area. The only trouble was that it projected over the edge of the bed. On two or three occasions during the night, he knocked one of the plants off and invariably got up in the morning and stepped in the mud from the pot. Those weren't real happy mornings at their house. It was decided that the collection had to be moved to one spot and they had plans drawn for a greenhouse. While waiting for these, her husband suggested that since she had purchased bamboo blinds for most of the windows in the house to keep the sun from the violets, she might as well move the plants to the basement and grow them under artificial light. She of course insisted that they wouldn't grow because they needed natural light, but to keep peace in the family, she took some to the basement, and set them on his work bench under a fluorescent light. Much to her surprise, they grew and that's how her violets got to the basement.

First of all, Mr. Hotchkiss built her a rack 16 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 4 tiers high. She had trays made of galvanized sheet 18" x 36" x 1 1/4" deep. All plants are in trays. On top of the rack she has a galvanized tank with a float. Each day after watering, she turns the inlet valve on so

that the tank will fill up and the water will reach room temperature by the time of next day's watering. When starting to water, she shuts the inlet valve so that cold water will not enter. Possibly one good feature of this method is that the water stands for several hours and it seems that the lime and other impurities settle to the bottom of the tank. They had about an inch accumulation on the bottom of the tank when they took it down after a year's use.

Another reason for this storage tank is that they have artificially softened water on both the cold and hot water lines. When she had her first violets, she watered them with water from the cold tap tempered by water from the hot tap which was softened by a water softener service. Then they had their own softener installed and had it connected to both lines. She continued to water the same as usual but her plants started to look a little unhappy. After some study she discovered the trouble. She replanted all her violets and began watering with water drawn from their drinking water line which was hard and cold. She had to heat all the water in a tea kettle, which was a chore. So that was why they resorted to the tempering tank. She now has two hoses coming from one end of the tank about an inch from the bottom. One is garden hose size and the other much smaller. Both have hand shutoffs at the ends. She uses the larger one for filling trays, etc. and the smaller one for watering her trays of leaf cuttings and baby plants. She has found that if plants of the same variety and size are placed in the trays, she can flood the trays so that the bottom is just covered with water and that takes care of watering that particular tray until the plants are again dry, which may be two to four days, depending on weather conditions. This method is not without fault as once in awhile she has a plant that becomes waterlogged and must be replanted. But it is one of the quickest and easiest ways to take care of plants in quantity. She does not use sand, gravel or terralite in her trays because it is too heavy and hard to handle since she removes the trays for sterilization every two or three months. There would be great advantage in keeping sand or gravel in the trays because the moisture would be more constant and it would be easier to keep the plants moist without getting them wet.

On four of the tiers she keeps her one-of-a-kind plants and because of the differences in size, variety, etc. they must be watered individually.

She had a little hint to offer those who water their plants from the bottom -- it is a good idea to water them from the top about once every two weeks as this will wash any salt accumulations back down through the pot.

She has talked to several people about their watering methods and would like to pass along their ideas. One lady who has a small greenhouse removed her benches and had masons lay bricks in steps. They used bricks with holes in them and did not seal the top. So she waters the bricks

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and all the holes fill with water. Her plants are
set on the brick steps and she doesn't have to
water again for about three weeks.

Another lady secured some baker's black bread
pans, filled them with crushed rock, set her plants
on the rock and pours water in the pans to the
bottom of the pots. This method worked so well
that last summer she took a trip to Canada for
three weeks. She pulled her window shades,
opened a window on her porch for ventilation,
had a nice trip and came home to find her plants
in excellent condition.

A gentleman sets his pots in benches filled
with terralite and waters overhead with a sprink-
ling can. His water is cistern water used at room
temperature and he doesn't need to worry about
foliage spotting.

Another man uses trays equipped with
supports and he puts glass wick in the bottom
of his pots and suspends the wick in the tray
that is flooded with water. This provides auto-
matic watering and only needs checking to see
whether or not the trays had water. Clay pots
were used in all these watering methods. If
ceramic or plastic pots are used, care must be
taken as they do not dry out very fast.

Remember, it takes a long time for a plant to
die if watered infrequently but one can kill it in
a hurry with overwatering.

Mrs. George Mayer, of Illinois, covered the
third subject, "Food and Soil." Mrs. Mayer gave
two series of lectures on growing African violets
at Purdue University, with sixty enrolled in each
class.

Her suggestion on soil formulas was to use
what was available in one's own territory, also
to refer to the June 1952 issue of the National
African Violet Magazine.

For the beginner, the simplest and safest
method to follow was the 1/3 method: 1/3 sand,
1/3 leaf mold, old manure or peat for humus con-
tent, and 1/3 garden soil. Later, one can add a
bit of charcoal, and a bit of superphosphate. The
pH should be about 6.8 (neutral).

Personally, she likes to use both leaf mold
and peat, also old compost over one year old and
old manure if available (50% of each). This is
rather rich for basic soil so it is advisable to add
a little sand, using a 1 lb. coffee can or soil mix
plus 1/4 can sand. This needs no further fertiliz-
ing, as it has fertility required for blooming.

To promote bloom, she advises the following:

1st week, 1 teaspoon ammonium sulfate to 1
quart water.

2nd week, 1 teaspoon superphosphate to 1
quart water; this must be mixed
thoroughly as it doesn't dissolve
readily.

3rd week, 1 teaspoon Hyponex to 1 quart water.

DO NOT REPEAT FOR ONE MONTH

She recommends foliar feeding as an excellent way of using liquid fertilizer. It is rather difficult to decide just what fertilizer to use. She feels all are good. Her advice is to select any fertilizer and to use exactly as the manufacturer directs, with good results. In this way one can continue good growing without disastrous results.

Mr. Frank Tinari, Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Pennsylvania, covered the fourth subject, "Pests".

The Tinaris, Ann and Frank, have been growing African violets for twenty years; for fourteen of the twenty their violets have been grown in greenhouses.

Mr. Tinari said the list of "Pests" is terrific; cats, dogs, children, the violet enthusiast himself who gives diseased leaves to friends.

Also certain insects are definitely classified as pests and must be eliminated to grow good African violets.

Among these are mealy bugs -- females deposit eggs in the axis of the leaves -- the eggs hatch in ten days and then trouble starts. To control, use a pyrethrum-rotenone spray which kills insects but does not affect eggs. Therefore, repeat spray two, three, or four times to get definite results.

Another enemy of the African violet is the Cyclamen mite, an insect 1/64" long belonging to the spider family. To control, use 1-200 solution of rotenone-pyrethrum. After a complete clean-up program, spray once a month to maintain good control. Also recommended some years ago was the hot water bath at 108° however

plants had to be submerged for twenty minutes and a constant temperature had to be maintained.

Regarding diseases, the question is asked, "What causes them?" Well, it may be one or a combination of things: an unfair environment; high soluble salts in solution; too high humidity; external temperatures. Definitely not good for African violets are fungi that cause ruptures and clog tissues of plants; viruses that cause streaks; mosaics that cause discoloration; malformation that are spread by handling. A good rule to follow is to WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY when working with plants.

Mr. Tinari stressed the fact that we have come a long way since the National Society has been organized. Chief among the new weapons employed in fighting pests and diseases is the PARATHION BOMB, which has proved a godsend to greenhouse people. However, it is a very POWERFUL weapon and must be used with extreme caution. The operator must wear protective clothing and protect his face, and neck by wearing an old hat PLUS A GAS MASK, and gloves over his hands and a raincoat over his body.

Greenhouse temperature should be rising, about 80°. In a house 15' x 30', allow 30 seconds time to walk through, use the wand and manipulate slowly and evenly to get even coverage, paying attention to eaves and corners. There is one trick to remember: do not have plants too crowded or you may not get a complete kill, as the spray cannot penetrate underneath leaves. If any plants still show deformities after spraying, all greenhouses have back doors, Mr Tinari said, so throw out sick looking plants.

For Nematode control: steam sterilization of 180° for 30 minutes is recommended.

THE END

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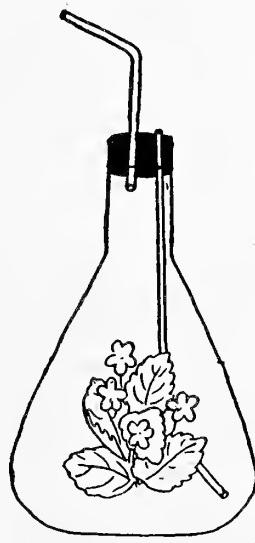
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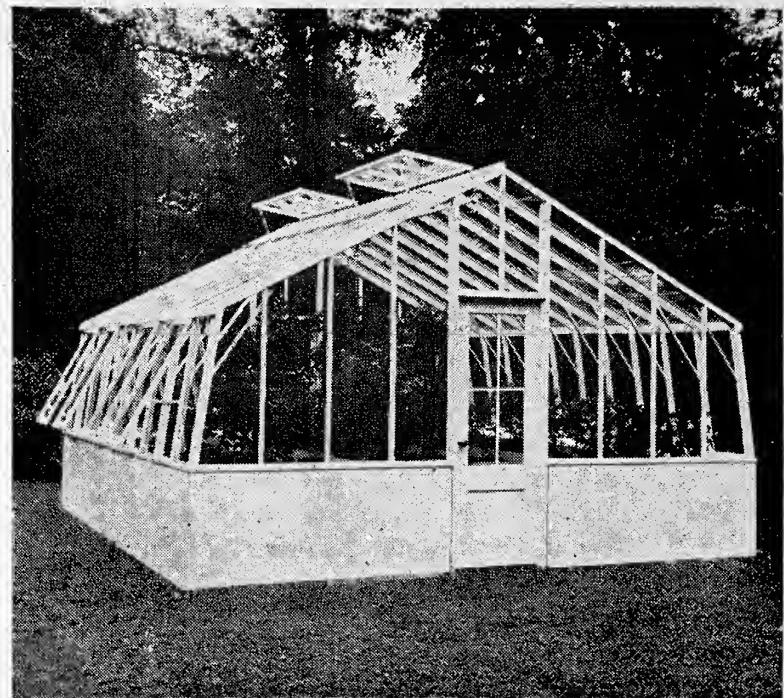
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The new greenhouse is completely pre-fabricated and goes together with sash bar assemblies. It is streamlined and designed so there are no heavy or expensive structural parts to pay for or to set up for exacting dimensions. The greenhouse sits right on top of an eight inch wall that can be of concrete block, poured concrete, or brick. Anyone with a knowledge of masonry can build the wall, and anyone with a knack for tools can set up the greenhouse. It does, however, take more skill to erect than the Orlyt which goes together entirely with bolts and screws; but the new greenhouse costs less for the materials.

The Scotty also has other features as you will note. The eaves are a full six feet high to give head room close up to the glass. The sides slant slightly to admit more of the direct rays of the sunshine. The ventilation is available to suit any crop or climate condition so vital in the growth



Above —

The new Scotty Greenhouse is ideal for African violets and similar tropical plants. This one is 15' wide by 18' long.

of African violets. Roof ventilating sash can be had on one or both sides of the ridge. Side and hinged ventilating sash extending from sill to eave may be had for every second or third lite. Aluminum barcaps that completely seal the glazing bars and eliminate future painting are available with the Scotty, and automatic ventilation is furnished to open and close the roof sash automatically according to the weather.

The Scotty greenhouse will prove desirable to the violet grower who enjoys doing his own work with new varieties, and it affords ideal growing conditions for hybridizing. It would prove perfect for those who want to grow violets for sale. In addition to providing all the essentials to good healthy growth, it makes a good looking show place.

THE END



Left —

The greenhouse is completely prefabricated and goes together with precision accuracy.

NASHVILLE

AWARD OF MERIT
NATIONAL
AFRICAN VIOLET
SOCIETY OF AMERICA



AFRICAN VIOLET
CLUB

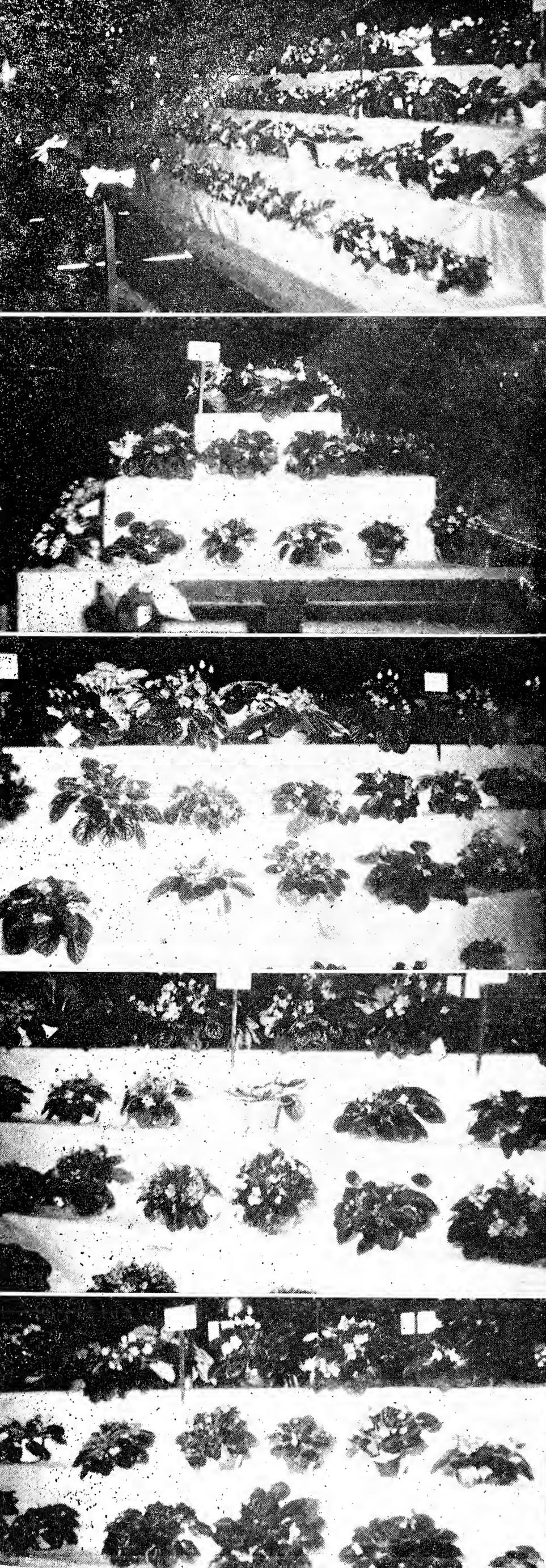
Yearbooks . . .

Pictured are the three prize winning Yearbooks at the Nashville Meeting.



Left — Yearbook of The First African Violet Society of Chicago.





Highway '53 The Amateur Show

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

Anytown, U. S. A. We start out on Highway '53, some of us traveling by car, bus, plane or train but all are headed in the same direction since Nashville, Tennessee is the mecca for the 1953 National African Violet Convention. To say that some of us found the traveling "rough" is putting it mildly . . . wind, rain in torrents, beset us but luckily we all arrived safely.

Let's take a look at the Amateur Show for '53. As we walked around the exhibit room we were thrilled at the sight we beheld. In the center was one large four tiered table . . . the first tier was 20 inches from the floor and each of the other three tiers were 12" higher covered in white paper. We had an opportunity to look down into the lower plants and even the two top tiers had violets setting in 4" and 5" clear glass bowls which were tilted so that we might see and appreciate the lovely violets with full view of them.

Exclamations of Oh's and Ah's were heard many, many times -- the specimen Saintpaulias were larger, yes, 23 and 24 inches across and full

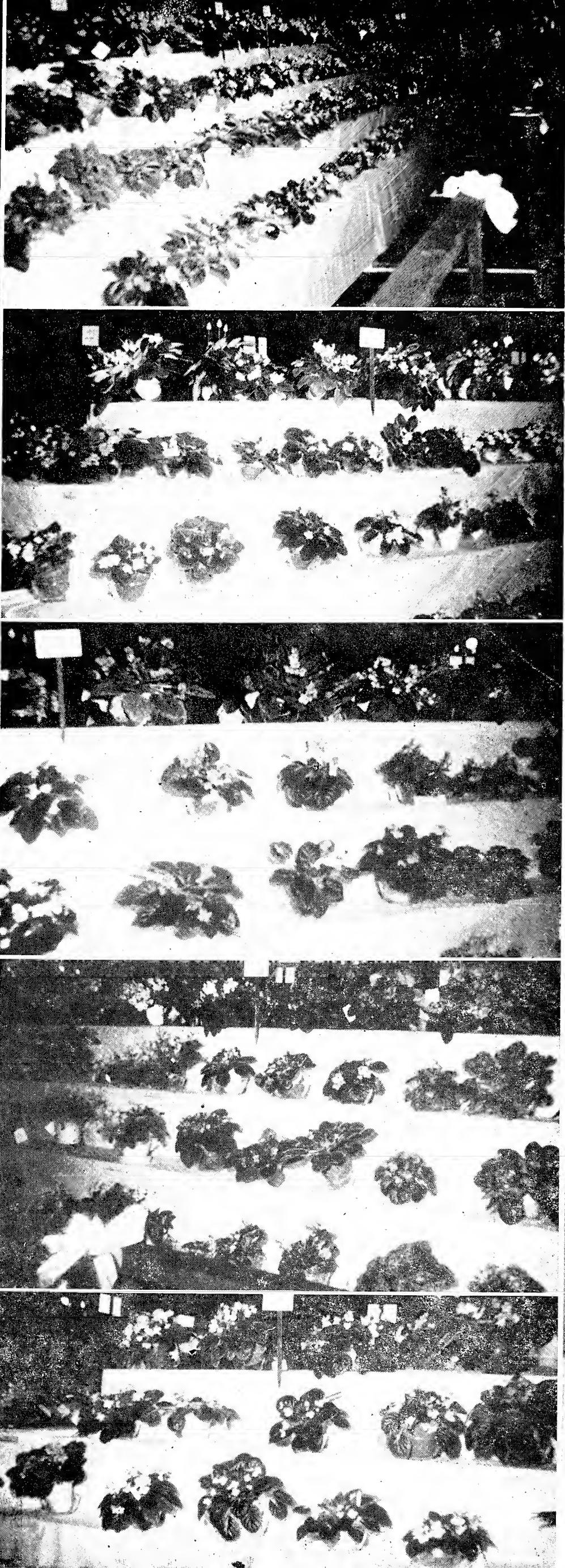


African Violets Our Show

of beautiful large blossoms, with foliage 4" and 5" across and the plants seemed to be in perfect show condition. There were many new varieties, some of which we have never seen nor heard of. Named varieties such as "Indianola, Indian Chief, Forget-Me-Not, Queen Betty, Star Sapphire, and many of the old stand-bys such as Viking, Mentor Boy, Neptune, Red Head, Blue Boy, etc.

The question keeps popping into my mind . . . what are these amateurs doing to grow such marvelous plants? Are they on to some secret which many of us do not know about? Just look at the lovely Pink Delight which Mrs. L. J. Gross won the Silver Cup Award with -- it was not so large -- about ten inches across but Oh, so lush with beautiful foliage and bountiful blossoms. We understand that Mrs. Gross' Lavender Beauty was runner-up for this cup and she also received the George Koch Sons African Violet Plant Stand.

Mrs. Delphine Hotchkiss of Peoria, Illinois again won the "Popular Gardening" Silver Bowl for the most blue ribbons (8) while Mrs. C. W. Midgett of Joelton, Tennessee turned up with 7





Highway '53 of African Violets The Amateur Show

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blue ribbons and only missed the bowl and a "tie" with Mrs. Hotchkiss because the judges found a seed pod and a few lower leaves damaged on one of her fine plants.

Mrs. E. L. Perdue received the Tinari Cash Award for the finest Pink Luster. It was truly beautiful. Naturally we are all interested in knowing the winner of the National Gold Ribbon Award. Mrs. L. C. Gross turned in Pink Amethyst, Ruffled Queen, and Azure Beauty to capture this honor. Were these small plants? Oh, No! Extra Large. Mrs. Sam Nichols turned in Pink Delight, Pink Sheen, and Fringette Double White -- three very choice plants and received the Purple Ribbon National Award.

Next we come to doubles and they were so numerous -- just name your favorite and we can probably tell you it was there. Alma Wright doubles galore, large and medium and small and the winner of the Cash Award in this class was Mrs. J. C. Bamford. Hers was a small, almost miniature plant but delightful to gaze upon. Confidentially we are going to give Mrs. Bamford some competition next year at St. Louis and again in '55 too because Alma Wright tipped us off to the fact that she would offer the cash award for the years '54 and '55, hooray!

Now we stroll along the side of the exhibit room to see the long table of arrangements. Most were in naturalistic setting but the winner in this class was a lovely single pot of violets in a large mound of wood fungi of buff color . . . so truly scalloped and shaped it was a delight to view. The miniature class in arrangements winner was a lovely black round bowl holding a white Chinese figurine with white African violets (stems and

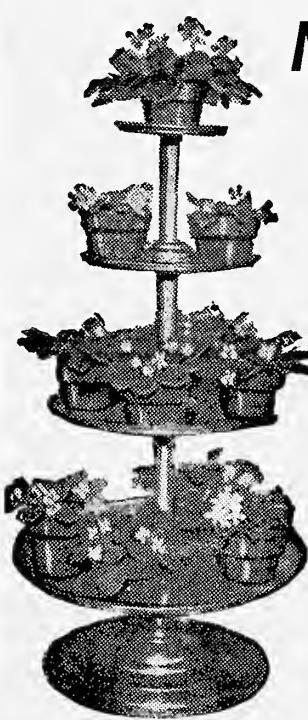
blooms) and painted white branches a little on the hogarth triangle.

Seedlings? Yes, we want to know who has what cooking in the seed pod. Mrs. Hotchkiss has a blue ribbon on a lovely white seedling. Large, did I say? Well the blooms were larger than a silver dollar and the foliage was very much like Snow Prince -- so straight, not curly, and it just seemed to have "it." But, also Mrs. Gross turned in three lovely seedlings -- none have been named as yet. Then there was a precious miniature seedling -- it had quite a lot of white in foliage. Ruffled Beauty in the Nashville Club section was fine, not many blooms but ruffled like an orchid, deepish lavender bloom and foliage large and thick.

Now we stroll up to the Special Research Committee Seedling Award class. The only plant entered in this section was by Carolyn Rector of California and on the card there was this notation "Seedling, Blue Eyes x Diplotricha x Gesneria Cardinalis." We can only hope that some day a new species can be developed by crossing successfully and so we leave the National Show with this thought running through our mind. Won't it be fun some day to go to a seed store and purchase African violets in cone or bulb form . . . plant them just like Gloxinia or Achimenes and poof! have a lovely African violet? We can keep hoping, can't we? ? ?

Pardon me, but I must close this story and get out on Highway '53 to return home, carrying with me memories of a wonderful Convention at Nashville, Tennessee.

THE END



New Revolving FLOWER TREES -- Ideal

FOR YOUR CHERISHED AFRICAN VIOLETS

Made of lustrous rustproof spun aluminum. Each tray is waterproof and holds up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water. Plants can be watered the ideal way -- from the bottom. No individual watering! This tree holds up to 18 four-inch African Violet flower pots, yet requires only 20-inch diameter floor space. Each tray rotates freely about center for even sunning of plants.

These Flower Trees are available in five heights.

36" high: 9" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$24.50
39" high: 12" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$25.25
42" high: 15" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$26.00
45" high: 18" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$26.75
48" high: 18" from floor to lower tray; 10" between trays.	Each	\$27.50

All trees are shipped assembled via express--prepaid.

Write for free circular on WOOD Flower Trees

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for the Famous CERAMO AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

Now your African Violets can be watered the ideal way -- from the bottom -- with these new saucers.

3 3-in. Pots with Spun-Aluminum Saucers and Wicks	\$2.25
3 4-in. Pots with Spun-Aluminum Saucers and Wicks	\$2.75
3 5-in. Pots with Spun-Aluminum Saucers and Wicks	\$3.00

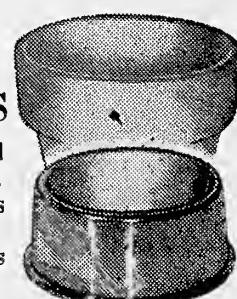
CERAMO AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

10 3-in. Pots . . . \$1.50	Famous Squatty Pots of Dark Red Clay. Excellent
8 4-in. Pots . . . 1.60	Porosity. Specially treated edges help prevent
6 5-in Pots . . . 2.00	sloughing off of leaves. We will replace any broken pots.

Regular SPUN-ALUMINUM Saucers

6 3-in. \$1.50	6 4-in. \$2.00	6 5-in. \$2.35
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All shipments sent postpaid. Add 25¢ a set postage west of Rockies.




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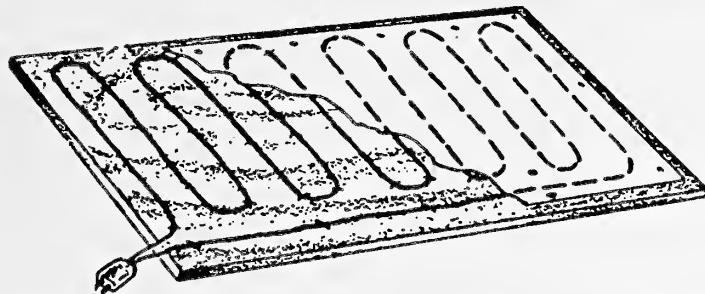


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Use GRO-QUICK HEATING CABLE to heat winter window sill garden, miniature greenhouse, aquarium, violet growing racks, hot beds, and cold frames. Will keep water pipes from freezing.

**LEAVES WILL SPROUT WEEKS SOONER
PLANTS BLOOM IN COLDEST WEATHER
VIOLETS THRIVE IN COOL BASEMENTS**

(See Mrs. Olga Witter's letter on page 57 Violet Magazine June '53)



Determine number of square feet to be heated and select cables you need. One thermostat will control several cables. Instructions with order.

A6 Cable	15 watts	1½ sq. ft.	\$1.00
B12 "	30 "	3 "	1.80
M26 "	60 "	6 "	2.80
P40 "	100 "	9 "	2.80
J56 "	140 "	14 "	3.00
S112 "	280 "	28 "	6.00
AT thermostat, will handle 1,000 watts			\$4.50

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Fog . . . Ideal for use
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- All parts are made in accordance with Aircraft Standards.

- Built to last for years.

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Such as French Dressing Bottles
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Pint Size
Fog Spray
Each \$1.75 P.P.
Two for \$3.25 P.P.

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NOTICE: We have discontinued the sale of violet leaves, cuttings, and plants.

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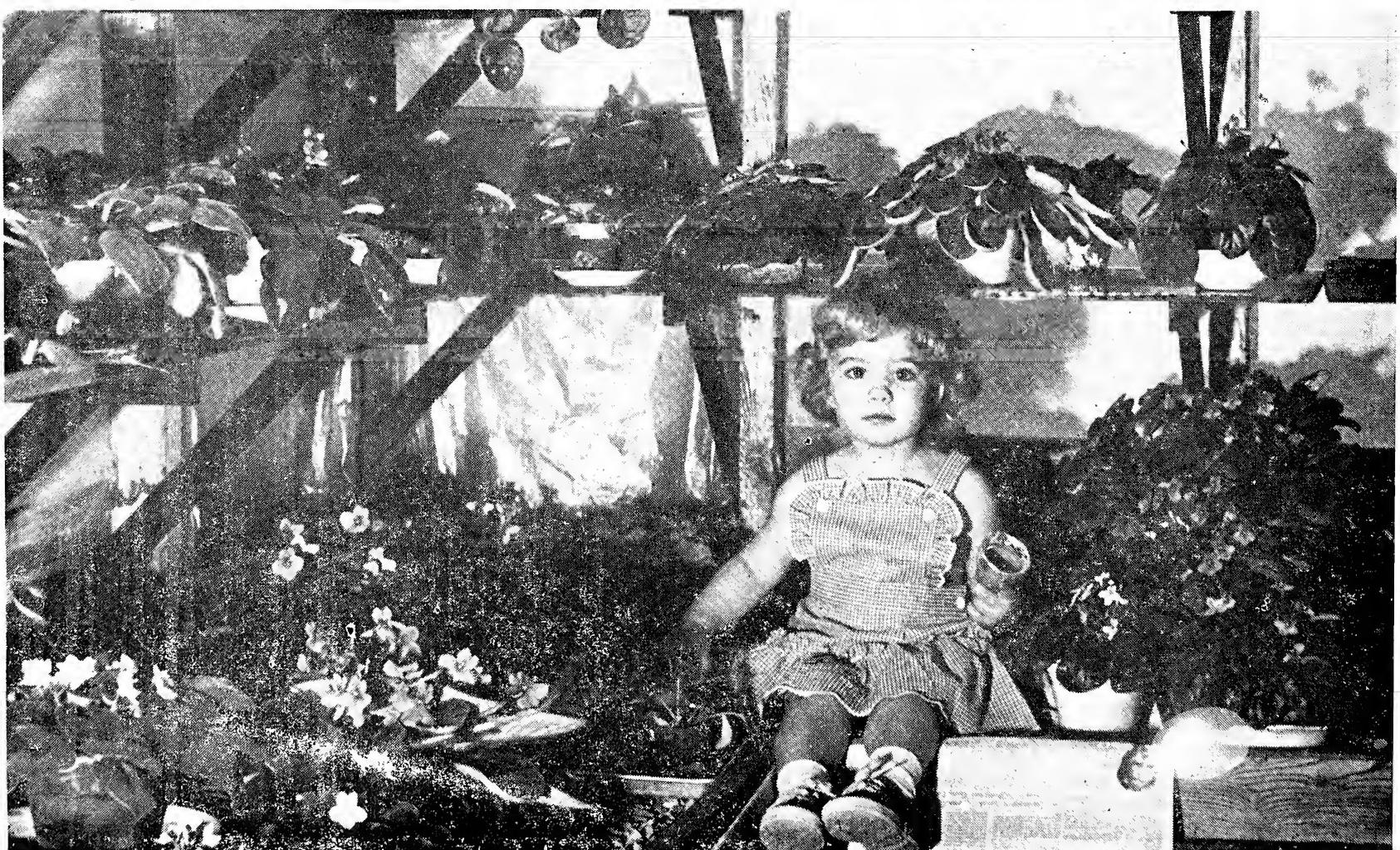
DETROIT 24, MICHIGAN



Mrs. Martha Winebrenner winner of trophy for most blue ribbons in the Long Beach Show as well as the best plant -- a West Coast Amethyst (Jessie) being presented her awards by Edmond Sherer of Santa Monica.

SHOW NEWS and VIEWS

Little Cindy Pike grand daughter of Mrs. Leo Thalheimer, Long Beach photographed in her grand mother's greenhouse. Mrs. Thalheimer who was Show Chairman is also a District Director.



Right, Mrs. Viola Wilson, 1953 president of the Long Beach, California African Violet Society with one of her prize winning plants and the trophy she won at the 1952 Long Beach Show.

ST. PAUL MINNESOTA

The third annual Show of the African Violet Clubs of the Twin Cities and vicinity was held April 9, 1953 at the Golden Rule Department Store in St. Paul, Minnesota.

There were twenty clubs exhibiting, three home growers, five commercials and one table displaying PEP-O-PLANT plant food, as well as a table for registration of out of town guests and inquiries regarding new memberships. Sixteen hundred and sixty plants, representing between 350 and 400 different varieties were on display.

The table arrangements varied from table to table according to the tastes of each individual club. Such containers as soup tureens, glazed pottery, old milk glass, lacy china, delicate Dresden and paper doilies were utilized to show off the beauty of the plants.



The propagation table proved of prime interest. This area featured practical methods of propagating leaves, seeds and the crossing of plants.

By actual count sixteen thousand people viewed the exhibits during the day. These visitors were made up of violet enthusiasts from fourteen states and one hundred thirteen Minnesota towns as well as Canada and even a couple from Norway.

There are now twenty-five clubs in the Twin City area, all under one governing board. The harmony and good fellowship among the members of the clubs as individuals as well as the coordination of effort and cooperation between individual clubs makes a very successful show for the Twin City Clubs.

Arrangement table — Twin Cities Show.



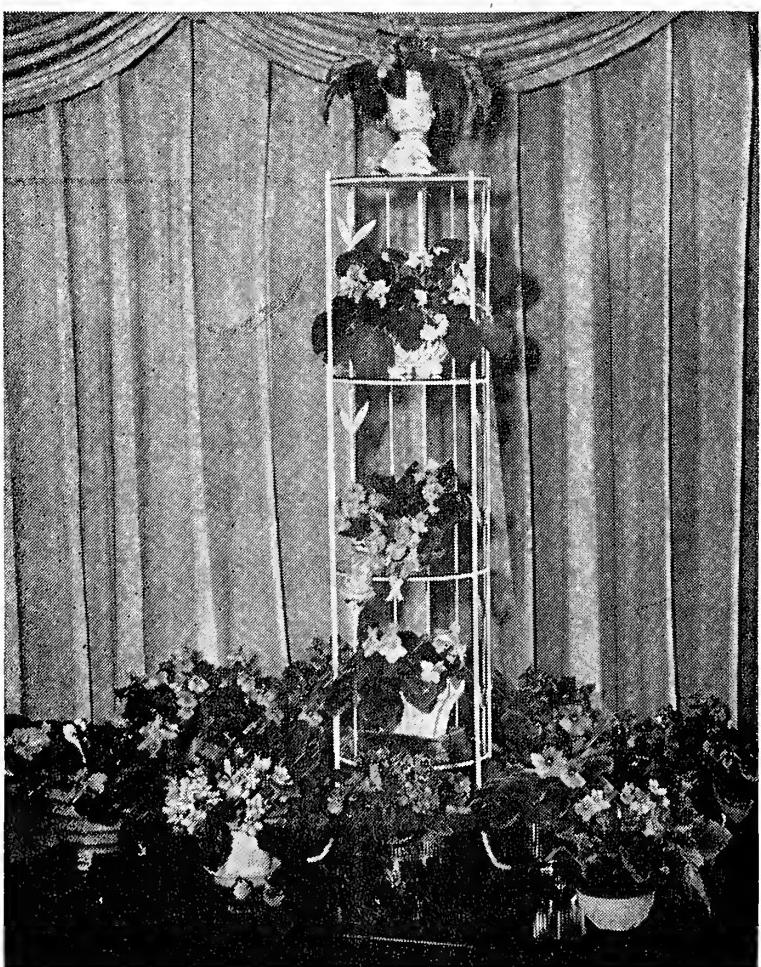


Mrs. W. B. Green

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

The annual show of the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society was held April 11 and 12 at the Memphis Museum. Mrs. Edward Toulon is president of the Society, Mrs. M. F. Abt was general chairman of the show.

Red River Society Show



The theme "Melody of African Violets" was carried out in the staging and decorations by Mrs. W. C. Welborn. Using a color scheme of green and white, the canopies of the room were decorated with green musical notes on a white background and green musical notes separated the sections. A naturalistic setting with tropical plants, ferns and violets embedded in a carpet of grass formed a stage setting.

African violets in a wide range of colors, old and new varieties, single and double blossoms and foliage plants were shown. Corsage bouquets of African violets were displayed on a decorative tree. In keeping with the theme, arrangements in naturalistic settings, in musical instruments and depicting a song title or melody were displayed in the center of the room.

In the educational center how to grow and propagate African violets was shown.

The Gold Ribbon Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., for the best collection of three registered named varieties was won by Mrs. W. B. Green. The Purple Ribbon awarded by the National organization for the second best collection was won by Mrs. Edwin Erwin. Mrs. Green also won the Charles E. Heckle circulating silver loving cup and a purple ribbon offered by the local Society for the best-in-show plant, a handsome specimen of Bi-color. Sweepstakes award was won by Mrs. Scott B. Goodwine with 10 blue ribbons. Runner-up in sweepstakes was Mrs. C. J. Massa with 9 blue ribbons. Mrs. Frank A. Doepel won the novice award.

Judges were Mrs. W. E. Ward chairman, Mrs. Walter Mack Berry, Mrs. M. B. Lawless of Memphis and Mrs. R. B. Humphries of Whitehaven, Mrs. M. J. Hester of Florence, Alabama and Mrs. John R. Hackett of Little Rock.

MOORHEAD MINNESOTA

The Red River African Violet Club of Moorhead, Minnesota and vicinity held their first Show the last of April in the Floral Shop in Moorhead. The flower Shop had been newly decorated in shades of green and with the many mirrors all around provided a perfect setting for the show.

Each member was asked to create a setting of her own. The life span of an African violet from seed to maturity was displayed by one member. She potted seedlings in one inch pots for infants and placed them in a beautiful small white wire carriage, loaned for the occasion from a dress shop. They were nestled in folds of lavender tulle. Then violets that boasted their first bloom "teen agers" were walking with "mama violet" who stood just behind the carriage with pipe cleaner hands on the carriage. Next to mama violet was "grandmother violet" and truly so for she was Ionantha. They all wore full skirts of lavender crepe paper and paper doily bonnets and hats.

A hospital scene attracted much attention. Dolls were dressed as doctor and nurse and were complete in every detail, even to the masks they wore. A very sick violet lay on a little white bed and medicines of N. N. O. R., Capsulate, etc. were placed in miniature vials on a shelf nearby. An aluminum spatter shield was used to designate the hospital room. Small signs explained to all "Hospital Zone", "Quiet please" etc. to give atmosphere and finally a sign giving the diagnosis by the doctor of "Crown Rot."

A lovely basket of violets of every hue was assembled with pottery figurines by one member, another chose to display hers in beautiful china antiques. Copper and brass planters were used by another and still another used various colored foil to cover her pots which made a colorful and attractive arrangement.

A May Pole setting was used in the display window. Each little doll held in her hand a pink satin May Pole streamer and she was dressed formally in the shade the same as the violet beside her. Then small blooming violets were

flanked close around the center pole base. The background of the window was filled with high growing Philadendron, Schefferlie, ferns etc. Tiered white metal tables and display stands of blooming violets of every shade and pottery added beauty. The floor of the window was covered with grass matting and all around the bottom edge a border of green huckleberry appeared to be a frame for the whole setting.

A lovely glass tea cart displayed the Ballerina Series in masses of orchid netting with a big bow on the handle. Also a beautiful white wire cart displayed a collection of reds: Red Princess, Magnifico, Red Lady, etc. which added much.

The supply of hints on violet culture was quickly exhausted as the committee at the guest book told of the one thousand two hundred guests who visited the show.

About 400 plants were exhibited by the nine members who all wore boutonieres to designate them as hostesses. Visiting hours were from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p. m.



At the Marysville Show, Mrs. I. C. Fowler, with her "Queen of the Show" plant -- a Pansy Beauty and Miss Anna Cherneney, president of the Society.

MARYSVILLE KANSAS

The Marysville African Violet Society of Marysville, Kansas held their first show March 8, 1953 with Mrs. I. C. Fowler general chairman. An estimated five hundred were in attendance from Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Professor John Coryell was the show judge.

Queen of the Show was a Pansy Beauty exhibited by Mrs. I. C. Fowler. Eye-catching background was a purple half circle, inscribed in gold lettering, Marysville African Violet Society. The Pansy Beauty was flanked by two attendants growing in figurines.

An arrangement displayed by Mrs. Thos. Farrell was a miniature train carrying small potted blooming violets in freight flat cars circling a plant of Double Margaret placed on an antique cake stand simulating a turn table. An appropriate railroad poster formed the background with time tables and vacation tour pamphlets displayed.

Another arrangement by Mrs. Farrell was entitled Poem in My Picture Window with a poem "Mother" on the wall flanked by antique Valentines, one of which was her Mother's picture mounted on one of 1900 vintage. Placed on a table in front of this was a huge plant of Double Mary Wac in an antique lamp base. This plant was chosen because her late Mother's name was Mary.



Above, Mrs. Charles Deer, Mrs. C. H. Lacey and Mrs. James Bissell.

McKEESPORT PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. C. A. Kinkaid cut the ribbon that opened the annual spring display of the African Violet Society of McKeesport, Pennsylvania on May 6, 1953 in the auditorium of the Carnegie Free Library.

Highlighting the show was a display of African violets, of many varieties, divided according to colors, a presentation of novelty arrangements of the plants and a parade of the months using violets to illustrate activities typical of each month.

A special display of African violet china was used for the occasion on a table marked by a green cloth by an arrangement of gold roses and purple iris and yellow tapers.

Among the novelties were planters of various kinds. The violets bloomed in a fountain, grew from a coffee mill, in an old-fashioned covered well fashioned from a coconut and appeared in a cauldron over an imaginary fire. They spread from small openings in china containers of various sizes and shapes, virtually covering the containers and were used in various figurines. and another was nestled in a surrey with a fringe. A plant had been placed in a miniature cradle on the top while others were used in a sea shell cut glass compote, cups and donkey carts.

Mrs. Charles Deer and Miss Bessie Ettlinger were co-chairmen for the display. An estimated one thousand seven hundred plants were exhibited, including many of the newest varieties.

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

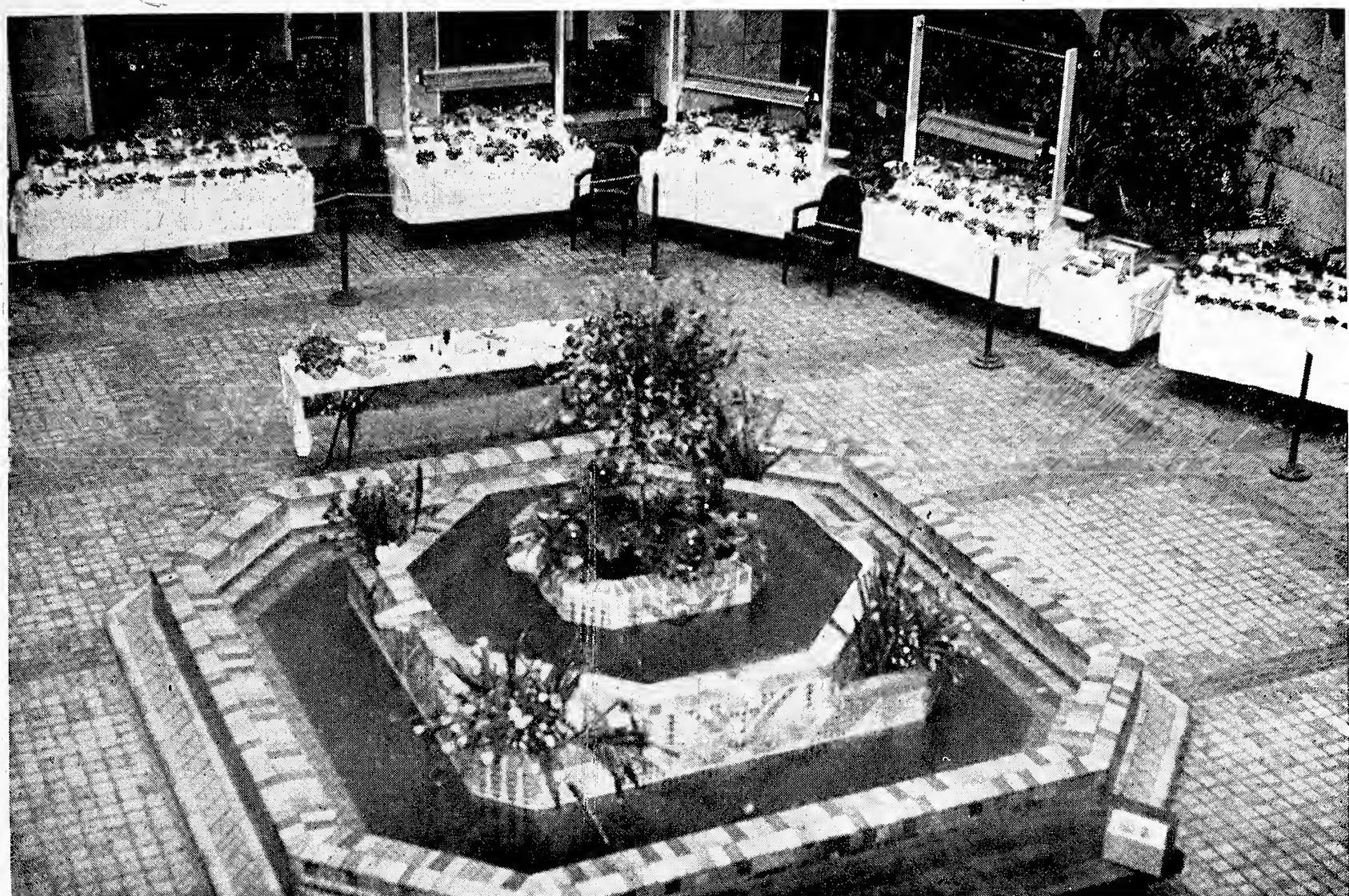
Maria L. Gonzales

The Maryland African Violet Club held its second annual show at Edmondson Village Hall, Baltimore, on April 3rd and 4th, 1953. It was highly successful because as The Evening Sun put it "The Maryland African Violet Show drew a record-smashing 5,000 spectators this year. One Harford Road lady worked all night at her candy business so she could get over to Edmondson Village the next day to see (and sniff) the event."

Two hundred and eighty-nine entries were received and shown. Mrs. Lucille Remsberg of Taneytown, Maryland won a ribbon award for her Painted Girl, the outstanding plant in the show. Mrs. Lydia Whitaker of Catonsville, Maryland won another ribbon award with her Terrarium for the outstanding plant arrangement.

Behnke Nurseries of Washington, D. C., displayed their All Aglow and Calico violets, and these highlighted the stage for their first public appearance. However, the stage decorations included several handsome specimen plants from the Behnke collection.

Thousands of African violets were sold at the show and all of the proceeds from the sale are being donated to charity.



The beautiful Floral Court of the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha which was the scene of the Omaha African Violet Society Exhibit, March 21 and 22.

OMAHA NEBRASKA

The Sixth Annual Mid-West African Violet non-competitive Exhibit was held in Omaha, Nebraska at the Joslyn Art Museum in the Floral Court, March 21st and 22nd. During the entire time the weather was very bad, but there were five thousand in attendance.

The Floral Court made a beautiful setting for the display. The center of the fountain held a cut roses arrangement arranged to look like a growing tree rose. The next tier contained large inverted bubble bowls containing purple violets and roses floated in the pool itself.

For the first time plants growing under fluorescent lights were on display. Two individual

baby size hot houses with seeds growing under their own individual fluorescent lights, which were attached to the cover, were shown. One was a six and one was an eight inch tube. Seeds had started to grow in these in eleven days.

There were many outstanding features. A lovely strawberry jar containing twelve blooming plants, all of different colors, an interesting small rock garden and many unique and antique containers.

There was one table displaying all double blossom violets which proved a great attraction to the public seeing how many different varieties of double blossoms there were.

The show consisted of a display of 321 large plants and there were 192 varieties shown.

ST. LOUIS CONVENTION SHOW AWARDS

The Silver Cup
Award of Merit Ribbon
Honorable Mention Ribbon
George W. Koch Plant Stand Award
Annual Sweepstakes Silver Bowl Award
Given by Popular Gardening

Tinari Floral Gardens Award
Alma Wright Cash Award
Tube Craft Floral Cart Award
Boyce M. Edens Cash Award
Research Committee Cross Hybrid Award
Year Book Awards

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FLUORESCENT FIXTURES — industrial type, 40 watt lamps. UL approved, no radio interference. Send for new low prices.

TIME CONTROL CLOCKS — PARAGON — \$10.50 wall model, \$13.50 portable model; ROBOT Time Control — a handsome, small portable control \$14.95. All models guaranteed and mailed postpaid.

WINDOW SHELVES — attach without screws. Made of white enameled steel rods. 8" x 18" \$2.95 each, two for \$3.60 postpaid. 8" x 30" \$2.95 postpaid.

SHELF TABLES — Two shelf table \$4.95, postpaid. Three shelf, \$9.50 Express Collect. Made of white enameled steel rods, shelves 9" x 26". Handsome pieces of furniture.

ALUMINUM TRAYS — made to your own measurements. (6" x 18" x 3/4" for window shelf only \$1.80 postpaid.)

DAIRY ORGANIC COMPOST — odorless decomposed cow manure. Unexcelled for soil mixtures — 2 lbs for 50¢, plus postage on 2 lbs. — 50 lb. bag \$2.95 exp.

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25 assorted	35 cents each
100 assorted	30 cents each
1000 assorted	25 cents each

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BETTY LOU GREENHOUSES
FRANKFORT, INDIANA

Among all the kinds of flower shows that are staged an exhibition of African violets has a special charm. There is an air of tidiness about it, the absence of ostentation, and an atmosphere of coolness and relaxation. No doubt the staging committee and the exhibitors have different feeling but after the last exhibit is in place, the hall cleared, and the judges go to work, an air of ordered charm pervades the place. Perhaps it is the prevailing color harmony in cool blues and greens, and rich purples or soft lavenders, or it may be the white table scarfs and the pot covers that simulate silver. Whatever the cause, the feeling is there -- at least I have it every time I see an African violet show.

This feeling was accentuated with my first view of the fifth annual spring show of the Metropolitan African Violet Club of Washington, D. C., which was held in the beautifully appointed auditorium and exhibition room of the Hecht Company's Parkington Store, in Arlington County, Virginia. The date was well chosen, April 17 and 18, early enough for the late winter flush of bloom before it waned, late enough so that the foliage reflected the superior vigor and color of spring.

There were 275 entries in all, with 17 in compositions and novelty containers (a field in which Mrs. Eunice Mercer starred), and 20 in an invitation class open to other than members of the club. There were 21 entries in the class for members' seedlings, and here the judges felt that four plants were meritorious enough to receive Honorable Mention in addition to the three numerical awards. The best of these, Martha Husted's number 10, was also judged the third best plant in the show.

The trend toward Variegated, with 30 entries 12 of which were doubles, and towards Reds and Orchids, with 40 entries, is manifest in these statistics. Azure Beauty and Blue-eyed Beauty were prominent among the Variegateds; Carmen, Sunrise, and Heart's Desire led among the Reds and Reddish Orchids.

In the Pinks with 19 entries, there was almost a Pink Cheer class in itself, and Mrs. George B. Furman's plant took second best in the show. Venerable Pink Beauty still holds its own, however. There were some really fine whites -- not just class fillers -- and Snow Prince was pre-eminent. Among the Amazons and Supremes Ruffled Queen was most favored, but a superb Behnke Boy was also greatly admired.

But what do you suppose was the immediate and unanimous choice of the judges for best in the show? Why, old Blue Warrior, of course, exhibited by Mrs. Thomas B. McKneely, who also had fourth best with Sunrise, and took sweepstakes honors with 6 blue ribbons. Other blue ribbon winners were Mrs. W. S. Burbank for

Lady Grace, Twilight Mist, and Blue-eyed Girl; Mrs. Hazel LaMar for Crazy Quilt, and for the largest and smallest blooming plants; Mrs. Furman for Pink Cheer and Snow Prince; Mrs. Berry for Double Neptune; Mrs. Ruth Henderson for Azure Beauty; Mrs. Law for Ruffled Queen; Mrs. E. H. Toms for Orchid Girl.

Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips, of Richmond, Virginia, was assisted in the judging by the undersigned, and we parted on still excellent terms.

ST. LOUIS SHOW

The second annual African Violet Show entitled Violet Calendar was held April 18 and 19 at the Knights of Columbus Home in Webster Groves, Missouri; plants were presented and exhibited by the African Violet Society of St. Louis and St. Louis County. All eight chapters of the Society participated in the event including five new chapters which were organized since the show last year. Plants exhibited were grouped according to color, many kinds of doubles, new varieties, plants of outstanding foliage, grouping of girl plants, arrangements, novel plantings and decorative arrangements in keeping with the theme of the show.

At entrance to the exhibits, the four seasons were represented by four shadow box niches of African violet arrangements of various colors, each portraying the colors of the seasons. In keeping with the theme, Violet Calendar, there were special decorations suitable to Valentine, St. Patricks Day, Easter and other festive occasions. Several of the species were shown, above which was a map describing the various dates and locations, showing the origin of Saint-paulias, and its progress throughout the world.

An arrangement of plants growing by fluorescent lights was displayed. The uniformity of the foil, straight rim covered pots, against the white corrugated paper background, made a striking appearance.

Exhibit tables were arranged to form a huge E. In front of each plant was a card bearing the name of the exhibitor, plant its self being in its classification. A most popular exhibit was a demonstration of propagation of seed, leaf cuttings, etc. Space was provided for sale of pots, leaves, small plants, planters, and the various other essentials for the growing and care of African violets.

Literature was given out to those who were interested in joining The African Violet Society of America, Inc., also there was a registration booth for visitors to sign to become a member of a Local Chapter.

Three hundred thirty-seven plants were displayed, one hundred eighty varieties. Attendance was very satisfactory (2260), no admission charge was made. Visitors were enthusiastic in their praise of the exhibits and the manner in which the show was conducted.

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Sodium Selenate	12 caps \$1.00
Lindane	1-lb. \$1.10
Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.	

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FERTILIZERS

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FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Lime-stone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

SPONGE-ROK $\frac{1}{2}$ bu. \$2.75 ppd.

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All sizes and lengths.

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Metal foil, Vitamin B1, pots, (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, duPont Garden Products, sprayers, etc.

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50 cent reduction on all plants in Groups 1, 2 and 3 of Spring list. On 75 cent and \$1.00 groups 25 cent reduction. A few \$1.00 reductions on large specimen plants.
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ROCHESTER NEW YORK

The African Violet Society of Rochester and Vicinity held its Fifth Annual Show on May 17th at the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Mrs. A. H. Ricketson of North Chili won the Queen of the Show Award with her very beautiful plant of Red King. Mrs. Ricketson has been winner of this Queen of the Show Award for three consecutive years.

Mrs. Don K. Hutchins of Rochester won the Sweepstakes Award. Mrs. Fred Flory of Geneseo was winner of the Gold Ribbon Award given by the African Violet Society of America, Inc. for the best collection of three registered varieties.

Floyd L. Johnson was chairman of the show with Mrs. Watson S. Green as co-chairman.

Newly elected officers for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. Charles Anthony
1st Vice-President,	Mrs. Fred Flory
2nd Vice-President,	Floyd L. Johnson
Recording Secy.,	Mrs. Arthur C. Barnes
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. George F. Helberg
Treasurer,	Mrs. Harry V. Thompson



Mrs. Ricketson and Floyd Johnson

WHEELING WEST VIRGINIA

The Ohio Valley African Violet Society sponsored the first competitive show in the history of the Valley at the Palm House in Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.

The theme of the show was "Violets in the Window", which was carried out with a window filled with hanging shelves of violets. This window was in the center of the Palm House.

The judges were Mrs. Charles Forstall, Mrs. L. Ross Harness and Mrs. P. M. Lowy of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Upon their arrival at the Park they were greeted by Mrs. Glenn Powell, Mrs. Hodge and Mrs. Harris and were taken to the Board Room of the Garden Center, where a light breakfast was served them. At two p.m. a luncheon was held at the Oglebay Restaurant in honor of the judges and Mrs. Shar Southall Burig of the Wheeling News Register, Miss Lucille Hipkins of the Martins Ferry, Ohio Times Leader and Mrs. Rhoda Maxwell, director of the Wheeling Garden Center. Twenty-six were in attendance at the luncheon.

The following awards were given: Mrs. Amos Bitzer, Jr. Grand Champion with six blue ribbons. Mrs. Roland Crippen, second place with five blue ribbons. Mrs. John Cochran received a championship award for the best cultural plant. Mrs. Harry Daugherty and Mrs. Henry Bober received a championship ribbon for their staging of violets in a natural setting. This was set against a wall banked with ferns. Violets were planted in logs covered with moss, arranged around a miniature lake. To add color, pixies, squirrels and fish were

used. This award automatically reverts to the club, as the setting was prepared as part of the staging.

Pack's Lavender Star was exhibited and created a bit of enthusiastic approval.

The show was received with much enthusiasm by the more than one thousand and fifty visitors for the one day show.

Mrs. Bitzer and Mrs. Philbaum



Below — Mrs. Smith winner of the National Gold Ribbon with her prize plants.

Left — Attractive arrangement of figurines and violets.



BEAUMONT TEXAS

"RAINBOW OF VIOLETS" was the theme of the second annual Beaumont, Texas African Violet Show which was held on April 18th and 19th.

Large arrangements in the shape of rainbows containing multi-colored violets were placed around the show rooms and interspersing the exhibit tables, pastel carts, planters and baskets filled with violets carried out the motif. In addition to the entries by commercial growers which were most beautiful, members entered novel and attractive arrangements for special occasions, table decoration and many unique and interesting planters. Among these was a May Pole design, a woodland scene and an entire table of violets which were planted in small hats.

Specimens under glass, were shown to demonstrate the various kinds of diseases from which

Saintpaulias suffer. Samples of plant food were given out and written information on the care and growing of violets was distributed to interested visitors.

There were 300 individual entries, representing 450 varieties of violets, on display. During the one day and a half show 1007 guests signed the register.

Mrs. Sidney D. Smith of Orange, Texas won the Gold Ribbon Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., with a score of 97 and Mrs. Mike Peveto of Beaumont, Texas received the Purple Ribbon Award, second place offered by the National Society with a score of 95. Sweepstakes in horticulture were won by Mrs. Geo. S. Vallin, Beaumont, Texas, with 18 blue ribbons. Judges included, Mrs. C. R. Ballard of Montgomery, Alabama, National and Mrs. Edward G. Jones and Mrs. R. L. Stuart of Beaumont, Texas.

Mrs. George Vallin served as show chairman.



Calling all MEN

Phil Libby, 1437 Wisconsin Ave., Racine, Wis.

Since I wrote the last column, I have visited Kansas City. Quite a few fellows in Kansas City are interested in violets and many of them members of the National and Local Societies. Had an interesting evening with Frederick Bergman, who is with the Midwest Research Institute. He is working with organic soils and doing some experimental work with both orchids and violets. Chester Lyon, also of Kansas City, took me around to a number of the commercial growers and I enjoyed a couple of evenings at his home. Many thanks to all of you fellows I met.

I'm terribly ashamed of the way my mail has been answered, and I promise to do better in the future, for I'm not doing so much traveling from now on.

Let's get at the mail bag and pick some of the interesting ones.

First the exchange of leaves --

Ervin Neeld, 3351 Chestnut St., Baltimore 1, Maryland

Ed Martina, 6320 W. Richmond St., Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin

Edward R. Winston, Box 771 Stanton, Virginia

The above named are interested in the exchange of leaves, so please contact them direct. Thanks.

This letter in part from E. W. Gardner, Jr., of 3712 W. Huron Street, in Chicago may prove of interest -- "Just finished reading your article in the African Violet Magazine and enjoyed it very much. Decided that I might have some information of use for the African violet fans, especially those using fluorescent lights -- since all of mine are grown under lights.

Late in 1951 I bought my first -- Sailor Girl -- and about the same time read about growing African violets under lights. I installed a standard forty watt fixture over my work bench, intending to grow other plants as well as African violets, but it didn't take long for the now incubating violet-itis virus to break out, and did I have a bad (or good?) case! Soon violets crowded the work bench and I needed more room. I read of Gro-Quick African violet racks -- sent for the plans and built one, having it in operation in September 1952. Now I had plenty of room for

my plants, or so I thought. But of course, I had been adding and my collection grew and grew. I became interested in hybridizing and now have many young seedlings growing plus much seed and no place to start new plants. Guess I'll have to build another rack.

I place most of my plants about six inches from the lights -- this is much closer than authorities recommend, but if the leaves don't turn yellow right away, then the latter results justify it. Plants grown this way have much darker foliage, with pronounced red flush on undersides of leaves. Girl varieties have deeper notches on leaf edge and grow very compactly. Of course I use Hyponex, Rapid-Gro, Stimu-plant, Hy-Gro and Fertil-Gro, in rotation, at about half strength, every week.

All plants purchased growing in soil are left growing in soil, but all new plants from leaf cuttings, etc., are grown in wick fed pots, containing only vermiculite. It is very evident, after a year or so as a comparison that all African violets grow about twice as fast, bloom more prolifically and are less susceptible to wilting if the medium dries out, than those grown in good soil. Not only that, but they are never bothered with "critters" except for the ever present springtails."

His answer to John Byk -- "I'd suggest you soak the plant, pot and all in a solution of rotenone-nyrethrum spray for ten minutes, then place the plant in a dark place for twenty-four hours. Replace in regular growing position. Use other soluble fertilizers -- particularly those with trace elements -- as well as present product, but use only half strength every seven days or so. Water and apply fertilizer from the top and keep rim of pot covered with aluminum foil." So John, that's one answer.

Leonard Brewer comes forth with "It seems to me that his (John Byk's) plants are getting too much direct sun, causing them to become burned. Also that 80° temperature would make even a human wilt. If he can admit some fresh air during the daytime, just enough not to cause draft on his plants and still reduce the temperature somewhat, his plants should improve. I would move the plants from the northwest wall

and set them right in the east window. If no sun reaches them in the east window they should flourish. I have found the east window to be the best under all other conditions. The extra fluorescent light and the addition of Plant Marvel every week may be forcing his plants to produce luxuriant growth -- but no flowers. If his soil mixture is quite rich I would reduce the Plant Marvel to once every two weeks or even less. Just experiment and see what happens. With a kerosene heater, good ventilation is vital and that could be his problem. I remember we had a gas leak in our gas furnace several times, and the violets showed their dislike for it immediately. They wilted, just like John's did. In order to maintain a higher humidity I would set pans of water near the heater if at all possible. This should produce better results." That's all John. Thanks Leonard and keep on writing, I enjoy your letters even if I don't get to answer them. Someday maybe I can.

To all of you who have written me, I'm sorry that time does not allow me to personally answer all letters, but keep on and as I said above, maybe I'll get the time someday to answer all of you. Yes, even the ladies, God bless 'em have been writing too, even though this column is especially for men.

See you in the next issue.

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403 McElheny Rd.
Glenshaw, Pa.

Mrs. Merle Hardy
9650 Gouin Blvd., W.
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

JUDGES:

Evan Roberts 355 N. Harrison St. East Lansing, Mich.	6/16/1953
Mrs. A. B. Doughty 433 Rhode Island Ave. Norfolk, Va.	3/5/1953
Mrs. G. Howard Milligan Manlius, N. Y.	10/22/52
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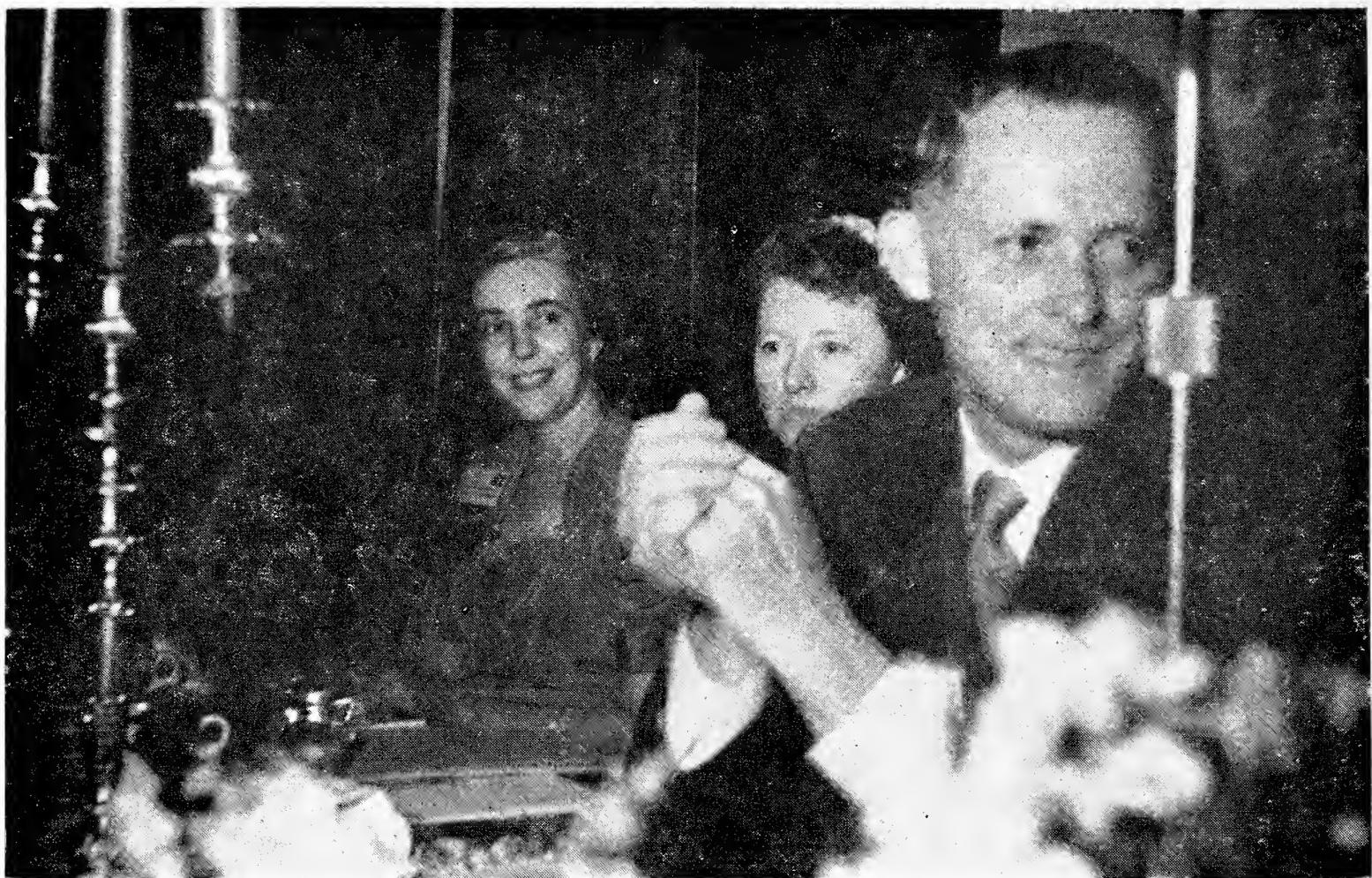
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Sam Caldwell, "The Old Dirt Dobber."

Past Present and Future

A Program of Fun

Florence T. Foltz, Lewistown, Penna.

*Page 57, permission to reprint granted by Readers Digest

If a reporter were clever enough to inject the true personality of a speaker such as the Old Dirt Dobber, into a report, there would need to be a special award created for such a feat. After having been honored with an award for special stories, I feel terribly inadequate for this particular assignment. Perhaps Sam, as the Old Dirt Dobber is known to his friends, would not object to a brief description of himself for the benefit of those truly unfortunate members who missed hearing him speak. He is not short, fat and bald, nor does he have dirt under his fingernails and a spade in his hand . . . as so many of us expected. And he is not really old . . . just about seven years older than I am, if that helps any. I didn't get the actual statistics but judging from the men in my family, I'd guess he is near 6' 2". He is very thin, and has light brown hair (probably was a tow-head as a child) with a few gray strands about the temples. He has a very infectious, almost perpetual smile, and is reeking (gardeners usually reek with something) with personality. I don't know if there is a better word than masculine charm, but if there is he sure is full of it. He is one of the most fluent

speakers I have ever heard, and he is also very modest. I dare say right now if I were in Tennessee instead of Pennsylvania he would be tempted to fill my mouth with a shovelful of dirt and shut me up for a spell.

When the Old Dirt Dobber was introduced, he explained that when he had been asked to speak at the Banquet meeting he was told that by this time everyone would be full of scientific reports and serious matters, and he was just to entertain us . . . and entertain us he did. I have never seen a convention audience laugh so many tears!

When he first took over the duties of the Old Dirt Dobber he recalled having at one time read a magazine which said it was for everyone except the old lady in Dubuque. Feeling sorry for her, he decided that the Old Dirt Dobber would be FOR the old lady in Dubuque.

Even though Nashville is the Country Music capitol of the world, Mr. Caldwell wasn't born with a guitar in his hand, and, strange as it seems now, he was educated as a lawyer. He gave up law to become the Old Dirt Dobber, and when he recalls the long hours some of his lawyer friends

put in, he thinks he was pretty smart to take a job that only takes 15 minutes work a week.

Gardening has been recommended very often for human ailments, and that this is not just a recent suggestion is proved by a letter, taken from the book, "The Art of Simpling" by William Coles, written in London in 1656. The letter states: "And if Gentlemen which have little else to do would be ruled by me, I would advise them to spend their spare time in their Gardens; either in digging, setting, weeding or the like, than which there is no better way in the world to preserve health. If a man want an appetite to his Victuals, the smell of the Earth new turned up, by digging with a spade will procure it, and if he be inclined to a Consumption, it will recover him. Gentlewomen, if the ground be not too wet, may do themselves much good by kneeling upon a cushion and weeding. And thus both sexes might divert themselves from idleness, and evil company, which oftentimes prove the ruin of many ingenuous people . . ."

Several points of interest were brought to the attention of the Convention guests in case they may have been overlooked . . . First, the State Capitol across the street is the only State Capitol in the United States with a silo on top. Next, the Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson was mentioned. The speaker noted that there is a letter on display at the Hermitage which was written by Andrew Jackson while he was president, in which he expressed regret that a large Willow tree had blown down during a storm. He made the suggestion that if someone would plant a Willow whip that it would in time grow into a tree to replace the fallen one. Finally, he told us about the "Horsey Sets" in Tennessee. These are divided into two classes; the Fox hunters who have their Ups and Downs, and the Tennessee walking horses. Concerning the latter, he said he didn't know for sure . . . but they seemed to have come into being about the same time the electric refrigerator left a lot of ice wagon horses unemployed . . .

On the more serious side, Mr. Caldwell said he belongs to many different plant societies, and derives . . . or to use his words . . . bleeds them for all the information he can get. He asked the questions: "What does a good plant society do? How are we, the African Violet Society, doing by comparison?"

Listing the functions of a plant society -- not in any particular order as to importance -- he rated our Society on each point. (1) To bring people together with a common interest. With a membership of 13,500 and 750 registered at the Convention, he rated us A-1 on that point. (2) To give advice on culture. Both our Magazine and our Convention speakers give good advice on planting, soil, light and nutrition. There are many good plant foods on the market and most all of them are good, but the Old Dirt Dobber warned us not to be too gullible in trying new products. He quoted the following from Reader's

Digest; Scientific humor runs to whimsical gags. One example appearing as a notice in the Cornell Veg-News, a university agricultural newsletter, proclaimed: "Public demand forces us to release our revolutionary new garden product, ERUNAM (pronounced AIR-OO-NAM). ERUNAM is not just an inert soil conditioner. ERUNAM is not only a miracle type plant food. ERUNAM is everything! One heaping glob of our magic atomic substance will remake your garden. ERUNAM makes light soils heavy, heavy soils light, and steadfastly ignores medium soils. ERUNAM is a selective pesticide; it kills harmful weeds, bugs and diseases while fraternizing with the approved ones. Better yet, ERUNAM has the Good Worm-keeping Seal of Approval. ERUNAM contains decomposed chlorophyll; your garden will never smell the same. ERUNAM contains no nasty chemicals; it's purely organic. One pound of this concentrated product is equivalent to 16 ounces. Write for our trial garden-size bucket today. Remember ERUNAM spelled backwards is . . ." But Prof. H. J. Carew, author of the parody, underestimated the gullibility of the public. More than 40 trusting individuals from Massachusetts to Missouri seriously requested "trial garden-size buckets" of ERUNAM.*

(3) The next function of a good plant society is to give advice on disease and pest control. On this point we are far ahead of many plant societies, because we have a functioning Research Committee, and are spending money to get the work done. (4) Set up a system for holding exhibitions and judging. Our Judges Schools and numerous shows are ample proof that we are on our toes on this point. (5) Maintain a registration service, but, Mr. Caldwell advised, don't let the scientific boys put codes over on you. To illustrate how complex codes can be, he cited the following example from the American Iris Society. Before I write it in code, I would like to write it as we heard it at the convention. "Copper Beauty capitals T B dash M dash R4D parenthesis N-e-s period Capital N period closed parenthesis semi-colon R period comma 1948 semi-colon parenthesis Ned Le Fevre X Sukey of Salem closed parenthesis semi-colon number 44 dash 27A semi-colon □ slight semi-colon AIS Bull period 107 period 60 period Oct 1947." Here the Old Dirt Dobber injected a bit more of his droll humor by saying, "This would be awfully good done by Victor Borge." The foregoing registration looks like this in code: Copper Beauty TB-M-R4D (Nes.N.) R.; 1948; (Ned Le Fevre x Sukey of Salem); No. 44-27A; □ slight; AIS Bull, 107. 60. Oct 1947. A typical illustration from the Hemerocallis Society is Louise Webster (Norton, 1941), Norton C. 1941; SYN. -- "Mary Webster", HB 8:59 37 inches; EE; L4M (1236). The speaker noted that there is a code in the front of the book, and you CAN decode these descriptions if you take the whole day . . . or possibly the rest of your life to learn the code. He contrasted those complicated descriptions with some from our African Violet Magazine which were described in such

simple terms as "this is a seedling grown from seed" and "this is a seedling from a general cross of girls."

(6) A good plant society will advise where to get plants and (7) what to get. Our magazine carries advertisements but up to now we have been somewhat behind the other societies in this. I do not know if he attended the Saturday afternoon session . . . if not, I believe this will be good news for Sam, and I think he would want me to pass it along. A committee has been appointed to select a list of plants recommended by the African Violet Magazine so that beginning collectors will know they are not buying duplicates, and this list will be published in every

issue of the magazine, under the name of Buyers Guide.

(8) Encourage progress in plant breeding. He feels we are innocents abroad in the field of plant breeding, and quoted from a letter in the Magazine. "I used to have trouble getting crosses of Achimenes and Gloxinias to take on African violets, but finally found out how." In another instance inquiry was made as to the proper procedure in crossing African violets with the ordinary yard grown violets. Mr. Caldwell, along with many other experts, doubts if such crosses can be made, but, added, "The people who design airplanes say that the bumble bee's weight and shape make flight impossible; but the bee doesn't know that so he flies anyway." Maybe our hybridizing will work the same way. In speaking of some of the member plants of the Gesneria family, he said he always thought that if he ever had a Streptocarpus he would water it with Listerine.

Our Society is doing well on (9) Educational service, having a question and answer service, Homing Pigeons and our library of books, color slides and records. The last point (10) was to keep the people interested; get the report of the people as well as plants.

In any plant society there is always the problem of who will do the work. Will they be paid, or volunteers? In our Society all officers . . . also the reporters . . . work entirely on their own time, without pay. We really enjoy doing the work . . . or I just guess we wouldn't do it, do you? Sam says we're living in a fool's paradise. Our Society is financed by the annual dues. We publish a good Magazine which is quite expensive, and financing our research work takes a great deal of money, so we don't have a huge pile of money laying around as some people might think.

Another problem encountered by every plant society is the Screwballs . . . those people who have ideas other than the accepted ones. In any society the percentage of Screwballs is higher than their percentage in an equal number of NORMAL population. (We all feel a little like Screwballs at times, Sam, but we're happy!)

Being a member of so many other plant societies, Mr. Caldwell is qualified to judge our progress, and he feels it has been truly remarkable in our comparatively short life.

I didn't talk to a person who did not thoroughly enjoy the banquet address, and, although this written report could never compare with the spoken word, I hope I have been able to give you the more important points covered by the speaker. And . . . in behalf of those who were unable to thank him personally, may I say Thanks, Sam, and we hope we'll see you in St. Louis! !

THE END

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Beautiful unusual foliage, wavy and crenated edge, black green, royal purple underneath, medium blue flowers. \$2.00

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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL SOCIETIES

Dear Co-workers:

I want to take this opportunity to invite each and every local Society who has not all ready done so to become AFFILIATED with African Violet Society of America, Inc. At this writing we have 188 Chapters in our big family. Can't we make it 250 before this year has become a memory?

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION SEVERAL TIMES THAT AFFILIATED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS ARE DEDUCTING 50¢ FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS AND WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE MEMBERS OF SAID LOCAL CHAPTERS. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO MAKE SUCH DEDUCTION ONLY FROM MEMBERSHIPS THAT BELONG TO YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY.

Also NON-AFFILIATED Clubs are deducting 50¢ from ALL their African Violet Society of America, Inc. membership dues. According to action taken by the Board of Directors at the 1952 Convention to be effective January 1, 1953, only affiliated Chapters of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be permitted to continue to deduct 50¢ of each of their local members' individual membership dues in this Society. Read as published to our entire society in the December 1952 Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 2, page 33.

We do not want to return any membership because the requirements have not been observed. Whether your society is Affiliated or not if you will cooperate by making the Affiliated Chapter page of the magazine part of your Society's monthly program, each member will be informed, and such an act will never be necessary.

If your Chapter membership is also 100% in the African Violet Society of America and members do not have any use for the Chapter copy of the magazine you receive -- your public library or the nearest Veterans institution will be thrilled to get it.

Those of you who have received your Charter, how do you like it? I thought they were kinda neat.

Sincerely,

Ada Magill

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Mrs. Jane L. McLeary, Secy.
1732 Ulloa St.
San Francisco, Calif.

AMETHYST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Ralph Englebret, Secy.
405 S. 16th St.
Richmond, Ind.

CRYSTAL BLUE SOCIETY OF DENVER, COLORADO

Mrs. Wm. W. Pearce, Pres.
790 Leyden
Denver, Colo.

DAVENPORT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY CHAPTER 2

Mrs. J. W. Henshaw, Secy.-Treas.
920 W. Locust St.
Davenport, Iowa

DULUTH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. H. F. Gibson, Jr., Secy.
323 Anoka St.
Duluth, Minn.

HIGHSTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Minnie E. Norcross, Pres.
Etra Rd.
Highstown, N. J.

HOLLY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Mrs. Cecil Wicks, Secy.
4201 Chicago Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Mrs. C. C. Bowers, Pres.
2012 E. 11th St.
Davenport, Iowa

MOUNT HOOD CHAPTER OF AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Mrs. H. T. Strandurd, Pres.
3225 S. E. 33rd Ave.
Portland 2, Ore.

PANDORA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. A. C. Holmgren, Pres.
4504 Moorland Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn.

RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mr. Phil Libby, Pres.
1437 Wisconsin Ave.
Racine, Wisc.

THE FIRST SAINTPAULIAS OF WILLIAMSVILLE, N. Y.

Mrs. Leo L. Ferrell, Secy.
28 Ellicott Cr. Rd.
Williamsville 21, N. Y.

THE STATESVILLE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Anne R. Weber, Treas.
806 E. Broad St.
Statesville, N. C.

TOPEKA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Florence Brown
1351 Wayne Ave.
Topeka, Kans.

UNIT 2 AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE

Mrs. Marion Ash, Corr. Secy.
546 Denmark St.
Louisville, Ky.

CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. J. A. Young, Pres.
Rt. 1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

THE EVENING SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

Mrs. Norman Johnson, Secy.
5730 W. Dakin St.
Chicago 34, Ill.

LADY GENEVA VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. Mildred K. Barrett
Rt. 2
Hopkins, Minn.



The Homing Pigeon

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Pigeons:

It just doesn't seem possible that when you read this, it will be fall again. I hope that the summer has been kind to you and your plants. It's time to repot your violets for top performance through the winter. Don't forget to sterilize your potting soil -- you'll avoid a lot of grief if you do. I'll include a few hints on sterilizing soil.

Have any little obnoxious pests sneaked in your open windows or maybe had a free ride in with your garden flowers? A few sprayings will take care of them in short order. "An ounce of prevention" you know.

Where -- Oh, where are the hints I'm needing for my column? I've been let down this last three months. Won't you please help to keep this an interesting part of your magazine?

Your Hint Hunter,
Helen Pochurek

I have found that the best method of eliminating root rot is to use a lot of charcoal in my pots. I use 1/3 pot of charcoal and the balance soil when potting my African violets.

Pearl Spring, Unit 104, Los Angeles, Calif.

I save all old jar rubbers and use them around the top of my 3 inch pots. Leaves rest on the rubbers instead of the pots, thereby eliminating rot of the petiole.

Mrs. Claire Hoffman, Evans City, Penna.



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

Vip has proved very successful in combination with a fungicide and insecticide spray. Use 1 teaspoon to a gallon of water and add the spray to it. It makes a good foliar food.

Mrs. Vernon Bottrell, Springfield, Ill.

When I need a small quantity of sterilized soil, I fill a half gallon jar with damp soil and drop in 2 Soil Fume caps. Screw tops on tight and keep jar where temperature will be between 70 and 90 degrees. Next day take outside and dump into a clean flat pan. Air for 4 or 5 days and the soil is ready to use.

Mrs. Vernon Bottrell, Springfield, Ill.

Quite by accident, I discovered that a cellulose sponge is fine for rooting suckers. I took an oblong sponge and enlarged the holes with a pencil. Soaked it well and wrapped a piece of foil around it. I inserted suckers in the holes and every one took root with no trouble at all. I kept it under a fluorescent light -- be sure to keep it moist. When rooted, they were pulled out and planted in small pots.

Helen Pochurek

Sterilizing soil has always been a bugaboo to the beginner. There are many ways of sterilizing soil and it need not be a difficult job. If you need a small quantity, one of the easiest methods is to put soil either in prepared pots or in a sieve and pour boiling water through it. Cover to keep steam in until cool and then spread out on a sterilized surface to dry out.

Another method is the steaming in oven method. Put sifted soil in a bag, such as a sugar sack -- tie loosely. Place a rack in an old pan, such as a roaster and put water in bottom of pan. Place bag on rack and cover. Allow to steam about 30 minutes at 200 degrees. Allow to cool in roaster. Spread out to dry.

Place damp soil in an old container and bake at 300 degrees for 45 minutes. Allow to cool and spread out to dry.

Regardless of method used to sterilize soil -- I always add Activo to sterilized soil after it is thoroughly cold. I use a 4 inch pot to a bushel of soil. Mix well and allow to set for 3 days to allow bacteria to reactivate the soil. Activo is used in compost making and supplies the soil with bacteria that may have been destroyed in the sterilizing process.

Helen Pochurek
Your Hint Hunter



IVA WOODS

225 High Street

New Wilmington, Penna.

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

Dear Pigeon Friends:

We are so glad so many of you are enjoying the friendships formed through the pigeon units. Keep writing to us, and we will assign you to a group. We will do our best to place you where you are with a congenial group.

Let's not forget to give a word of appreciation to those who serve so faithfully as the directors. They have a big job and fulfill it well. Someone has written asking for an International Pigeon but so far we have only one, any else interested?

To those who are writing for the first time, it will save time and postage if you will send in a letter of introduction of yourself and your interest in violets. I appreciate your sending me changes of address, or if you must drop out.

I feel I know more of you personally after the Convention and then just writing to you helps a lot.

Good growing,
Iva Woods

COLOR SLIDE CONTEST

The AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE is sponsoring a contest of 35 mm. color slides. Make slides of your favorite arrangement, of your violet window, of your lovely Blue Ribbon winner. Then send them to the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE, Alma Wright, Editor, 4752 Calumet Drive, Knoxville 19, Tennessee.

A L W A Y S
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at
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VIGOROUS ROOTED LEAVES
THAT GET PLANT RESULTS

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169 WASHINGTON CIRCLE
LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS

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1-A mixture 300 seeds \$1.00
11-E mixture, crosses of many varieties having girl type foliage 300 seeds \$2.00
6-D mixture, good doubles crossed on good singles, produces approximately 50 per cent doubles or semi doubles 150 seeds \$2.00
8-B our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00

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NEW BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

RIGHT DOWN TOWN OPPOSITE POST OFFICE
SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

OUTSTANDING PINKS: All Aglow; Pink Wonder; Pink Eyed Jenny; Pink Attraction; Shocking; Uncle Bob; many others.

New Fringed, Frilled and Picot-Edged Types
GROTEI GIRLS — deep sawtoothed foliage; ideal for jars.

OUR APOLOGIES — to you who requested our spring price list but who did not receive a copy. Our printing became exhausted.

OUR DEEP APPRECIATION — to all of you who helped us through the harrowing experience this spring of losing to hail 3,000 blooming plants right in shipping season. Our hearts were lifted and strengthened by your good wishes and great kindness.
FALL LIST READY ABOUT SEPTEMBER FIRST

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

Several important changes in the registration set-up were made by action of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America at the Nashville Convention. These are:

1. A fee will be charged in the future. The fee will be three dollars for each plant registered and one dollar for each name reserved. This goes into effect with publication of the September issue of the African Violet Magazine. (No fee will be charged for Name Protection, as outlined in Paragraph 9, page 96, of the 1952-53 Members Handbook.)
2. No more Series Name Reservations will be made.
3. Descriptions of plants will not be published in the future, and it is not necessary for the applicant to furnish a written description. The formalized data on the Application for Registration card is all the description information that need be supplied.
4. The protest system has been eliminated. Publication of an application for Registration completes the Registration procedure.
5. A Duplication Notification procedure is to be set up, so that persons who are selling plants under one name that are duplicates of plants sold elsewhere under another name may be notified of the duplication.

The immediate result of elimination of the protest system is that all past protests are lifted. Plants previously published as under protest are now eligible for competition in National shows and local shows at which "National prizes are awarded." All plants carrying an A. R. date in the Members Handbook, and all those listed in the Registration reports in the March and June 1953 issues of this Magazine are thus eligible.

It is hoped to have an article in the December issue of this Magazine giving further discussion of the changes and the reasons back of them.

PART II

The following applications have been received during the period March 21, 1953 to June 25, 1953.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Blue Beau 3-23-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Blue Belle 3-23-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Blue Buttercup 3-23-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Blue Reflection 3-23-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Blondie Girl 3-14-53

Mrs. John Nelson
611 Seventh Street
Fairbury, Nebraska

Bo Peep 3-23-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Cavalier 5-14-53

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Rt. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

Christmas Star 3-23-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Clementine 6-25-53

Tinari Floral Gardens
Frank A. Tinari
Valley Road
Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Cody Girl 5-29-53

Mrs. John Nelson
611 Seventh Street
Fairbury, Nebraska

Coronation Velvet 5-14-53

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Rt. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

Crested Girl 5-29-23

Mrs. John Nelson
611 Seventh Street
Fairbury, Nebraska

Crimson Glory 3-14-53

Mrs. John Nelson
611 Seventh Street
Fairbury, Nebraska

Dark Star 6-16-53

Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

Double Darling 4-19-53

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha 2, Nebraska

Edith Cavell 5-14-53

Granger Gardens
Route 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

Edna Fischer 4-20-53

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Even'tide 3-23-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Fairbury Beauty 3-14-53
 Mrs. John Nelson
 611 Seventh Street
 Fairbury, Nebraska

Fischer's Blue Horizon 4-20-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Fleur Petite 5-14-53
 Granger Gardens, Inc.
 Route 1
 Wadsworth, Ohio

Friendship 4-6-53
 Naomi's African Violet Rooms
 141 Holley Street
 Brockport, New York

Fringem -- Blue Berry 2-22-53
 Mrs. S. R. Toussaint
 1713 Glenmere Boulevard
 Greeley, Colorado

Galloway's Sensation 4-16-53
 Mrs. H. P. Galloway
 Elkhorn, Nebraska

Genevieve 6-17-53
 Mrs. E. L. Perdue
 Fuqua Road, Route 1
 Donelson, Tennessee

Lady Eleanor 5-29-53
 Mrs. John Nelson
 611 Seventh Street
 Fairbury, Nebraska

Lotus Blue 6-17-53
 Mrs. E. L. Perdue
 Fuqua Road, Route 1
 Donelson, Tennessee

Lyle Ann 5-29-53
 Mrs. John Nelson
 611 Seventh Street
 Fairbury, Nebraska

Mine Alone 5-14-53
 Granger Gardens, Inc.
 Route 1
 Wadsworth, Ohio

Missouri Waltz 6-12-53
 Mrs. Joe Cooper, Jr.
 714 West Central
 Carthage, Missouri

Moon Ripples 3-23-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Myrtle Radtke 4-22-53
 Mrs. A. B. Cooper
 4208 Decoursey Avenue
 Covington, Kentucky

Orchid Blush 5-3-53
 Mrs. Lela Reichert
 3114 Charles Street
 Omaha 2, Nebraska

Panorama 6-17-53
 Mrs. E. L. Perdue

Fuqua Road, Route 1
 Donelson, Tennessee

Pinnochio 5-14-53
 Granger Gardens
 Route 1
 Wadsworth, Ohio

Pompadour 5-14-53
 Granger Gardens
 Route 1
 Wadsworth, Ohio

Powder Puff Blue 1-3-53
 Mrs. W. J. Rucker
 724 Hunter Drive, (Eastridge)
 Wichita, Kansas

Rainbow King 5-14-53
 Granger Gardens
 Route 1
 Wadsworth, Ohio

Robinhood 5-14-53
 Granger Gardens
 Route 1
 Wadsworth, Ohio

Rosa Mae 5-29-53
 Mrs. John Nelson
 611 Seventh Street
 Fairbury, Nebraska

Ruffled Triumph 2-23-53
 Peggie Schulz
 3511 E. 39th Street
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Silhouette 3-23-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Snow Line 3-23-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Starglow 3-23-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Sundream 3-23-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Thistle (Double) 4-5-53
 Fischer Flowers
 Oak Avenue
 Linwood, New Jersey

Tiny Doll 3-14-53
 Mrs. John Nelson
 611 Seventh Street
 Fairbury, Nebraska

Tiny Lady 5-28-53
 Mrs. John Nelson
 611 Seventh Street
 Fairbury, Nebraska

Tomboy 6-12-53
 Mrs. Roy Van Buskirk
 444 Front Street
 Northumberland, Pennsylvania

Tunia's Double Snow Queen 6-21-53
 Helen Pochurek
 Arthur Road
 Solon, Ohio

Velda Rose 6-17-53
Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

Virginia Star 6-17-53
Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

White Buttercup 3-23-53
Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

White Butterfly 3-23-53
Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

White Caps 3-23-53
Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

White Madonna (Double White) 5-14-53
Granger Gardens
Route 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

Wine Buttercup 3-23-53
Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Zulu Queen 6-17-53
Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

PART III

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period.

Albino Redhead	Kansas Marvelous Girl
Allegro	Kansas Mystery
Annie Laurie	Kansas Nostalgia
April Snow	Kansas Romance
Ballet Queen	Kansas Secret
Bashful	Kansas Vivian
Betsy	Katherine's Purple

Blue Echo	Lady Ava
Blue Elf	Lavender Eclipse
Blue Lagoon	Lavender Feathers
Blue Sheen	Lavender Fluted
Bridesmaid	Legato
Bronze Indian Girl	Leota Bell
Bugs Bunny	Lillian
Cadence	Little Orchid
Calumet Red	Lyric
Carol Lynn	Madonna
Cover Girl	Maureen
Coy	Miami Girl
Curly-Top	Michigan White
Doc	Missouri Waltz
Donna Marie	Miss Quality Hill
Dopey	Navy Belle
Dbl. Lavender Eyed Beauty	Navy Queen
Dbl. Orchid Neptune	Northern Lights
Dbl. Orchid Neptune Girl	Northern Octopus
Eddie Boy	Northern Skies
El Capitan	Northern Spray
Ethel Heaphy	Orchid Rose
Everlasting Red Lolette	Orchid Spoon
Faust	Oregon Blue
Fickle	Painted Boy
Ficklette	Pink Cloud
Firebrand	Pink Glory
Florida Hopkins	Pironette
Fluted Lazure	Queen Mary
*Fringem (Series Name)	Rene's Blue Sea
Galloway's Camellia	Roberta Ann
Galloway's Joy	Rose of Sharon
Galloway's Pride	Sleepy
Gay Nineties	Sleigh Bells
Gent's Rippling Geneva	Sneezy
Ginny	Snow Belle
Gladys Gibson	Snowdrop
Glory	Snow Prince Supreme
Grumpy	Spode Orchid
Gypsy	Spring Dance
Happy	Spring Time
*Hawaiian (Series Name)	Stardust
Hawaiian Beauty	Star Eyed Lassie
Hawaiian Bell	St. Louis Blues
Hawaiian Hula Girl	Tanga
Hawaiian Maiden	Theresa
Hawaiian Moon	Tomboy
Hawaiian Sands	Utah Girl
Hawaiian Star	Vanity
Herkimer Girl	Vesta
Hiawatha	White Mentor
Irresistible	White Promise
Irresistible Girl	White Superba
Kansas Adorable	White Sublime
Kansas City Kitty	Zelma
Kansas Love	

*Designates Series Reservation. Reserved before Series Reservations were eliminated.

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Craig's Star Amethyst, Monarch, Purple Emperor, Pink Wonder . . . \$1.50 — \$2.50
Other 1953 Varieties, New Episcias,
Large Begonias, Buell Gloxinias

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Leaves, Plants, Seed and Rooted Cuttings.
Many new varieties. Begonias and Episcias,
other houseplants. Write for new fall list.

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Rt. No. 3, Box 120

Newnan, Georgia

PART IV

A series of Name Reservations was published in the September 1951 issue. Some of these plants have since been registered, but on most of them there has been no further activity. A six months grace period will be allowed in which the original reservee may renew the Name Reservation for another two years, if they so desire. Names on which no further protective action is taken will become available for re-issue to other persons on March 10, 1954. In the meantime anybody desiring any of these names can file a Pre-Emptive Name Reservation, which means that the name will be granted if the original reservee does not renew the reservation.

Since a fee is now required for Name Reservation payment of the one dollar fee will be required for each renewal. Pre-Emptive Name Reservations also require payment of the one dollar fee; this will be returned, on request, if the name does not become available.



QUESTION BOX

LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.



Since working on this column I have decided that I am my own best customer as I seem to have some of the same problems that so many have written in about -- namely crown rot or root rot. I believe that Mrs. Guy Sutton has the answer and I am following what she says very carefully "Never fertilize a dry soil." When I have this trouble it is always a choice plant that is one of my favorites and is generally in bloom and full of buds. In my case it is never caused by overwatering, so perhaps fertilizing bone dry soil is the cause. At the Convention one of the speakers, Mr. Resser, suggested that we water in the morning and then in the afternoon apply our fertilizer when the plant is not dried out. Also while I was in Nashville met Lauretta Littig and we had a nice little chat about the "Question Box."

Before I start on the Questions I would like to ask all of you to take part in this column, especially the Answers. It is surprising how few answers come to me. I would like to see several answers to one question as the more answers the more interesting this column will be and after all this is your column as I only assemble the material sent me and send it on to the Magazine.

Q: I formerly lived in Philadelphia and had over 500 African violet plants and about 1000 plantlets. However, as I had a lot of sickness in my family I did not have time to experiment with seeds. However, when I moved to Florida a year ago, I believed I would have more results because of the tropical climate. I had almost 400 violets certified by the State and Federal Governments to permit them to leave the State and be brought across State lines. All of them came down in first class condition with the exception of a few broken leaves. But, since then I have lost all but approximately 100. I used all the experience and knowledge of the past ten years with African violets to no avail. I changed soil, using a shock reducing powder as I always had, used the same plant food as up north, tried to give them every advantage which I knew they needed but I am slowly losing all of them. My leaves do not root as readily and when they do, seem to be lovely and I leave them until I feel they are more than sufficient size to transplant, only to have them wilt without progressing. I have been buying my soil already mixed from a reliable seed company in Miami. I use Liqua-Vita and Hyponex

and once in a while the water from standing egg shells. I wash all my clay pots, and some plastic, putting on a tape label and then paraffin the edge. I use Vermiculite and sand for rooting leaves. I always advocated that African violets didn't have a rest period if properly cared for as mine always seemed to bloom in abundance.

Mrs. Verna Z. Wick, Miami, Fla.

A: It must be the heat and humidity that your plants do not seem to get used to. Why not contact other members in Miami? Notice in the Members' Handbook that there are seventeen members of our Society living in Miami and they should be able to help you unless they have all just moved down there and are having your same problem. Miami members note please . . .

Q: It seems that several of my plants are literally "going to seed." Now, I think nothing of an occasional seed pod. I suppose it happens in the best of families. But when a plant starts developing seven or eight I think there's definitely "something rotten in Denmark." This first happened to Orchid Wonder and of course, I suspected thrips although there was no sign of them and I do spray regularly with N.N.O.R. The plant was perfectly healthy and normal in appearance and full of large, lovely blossoms, but after the blossoms dropped I noticed seed pods forming, so I isolated the plant. Since I could find nothing wrong, I removed the seed pods but kept the plant isolated. Now it is blooming again, still apparently normal and healthy, and I am waiting to see what will happen. In the meantime, another plant of Orchid Wonder (both plants propagated from the same plant originally) is starting to get seed pods. Could it be possible this plant just behaves in that manner, though I had never heard of such a thing? And now it appears that Pink Cheer is behaving likewise.

I am at a loss to understand this situation and do hope that you can help me. As I said, the plants appear normal and healthy in every way and bloom beautifully. Nor have I noticed that the blossoms drop prematurely. I might also add that these three plants are all widely separated, each being in a different room of the house.

Mrs. Jas. F. Soldat, Elmhurst, Ill.

A: It could be that a fly, lady bug, spider or bee could be doing some pollinating for you. Does anyone know of any other causes for this condition? Please help . . .

Q: Have read hundreds of articles on African violet culture but no where have I been able to find a word on reusing or discarding your old soil when transplanting. All of the soil was formerly sterilized before using.

Mrs. Ed Mahley, Coffeyville, Kans.

A: I see no reason why you can not use this same soil again provided that you sterilize it again and add a little fertilizer. If I have a violet that dies from rot etc. I always discard the soil that is in the pot by emptying it on a flower bed.

Q: I have always let my dirt dry for several months before I plant my violets. My question is "Will nematodes die with no moisture like Cyclamen mites or will I still have to sterilize the soil?"

Mrs. E. F. Kemper, Chattanooga, Tenn.

A: If there is any question in your mind why not be on the safe side and sterilize? Mr. Tinari at the Convention suggested that we use steam sterilization for 30 minutes at 180 degrees. Any suggestions readers?

Q: I bought a "Sailor's Delight" last summer and it is now blooming for the first time. I was under the impression that it was a double flowering violet (light blue). It is a medium blue and single. I like the doubles and plan to purchase Snow Prince and Azure Beauty, but if they do not have double blossoms after being transplanted would not want them.

Martha Pace, West Palm Beach, Fla.

A: "Sailor's Delight" is a beautiful light to medium blue double with lovely dark "girl" foliage. I have never heard of this one reverting back to a single. Snow Prince is a single white and although I have heard and seen many funny things that Azure Beauty does it generally remains a double but the color of the blossom has been known to change color from one blooming to the next.

Q: Could you please advise me where I could obtain any colored photos of African violets? Have to give a talk on African violets to two garden clubs in my vicinity.

Hilda Jones, Whitesboro, N. Y.

Here's proof that YOU can grow PRIZE WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

PLANT MARVEL

ACTS LIKE MAGIC ON ALL PLANTS

For those growers of African violets who need proof of the wonders of Plant Marvel in producing prizewinning plants, we point with pride to the many prize winners of the past and present who regularly use Plant Marvel on their own plants. The Sweepstakes winner last year at the National Convention of the African Violet Society who, incidentally, won the Sweepstakes again this year, the many winners at local, state and regional shows, and the increasing use of Plant Marvel by professional florists demonstrates over and over again the ability of Plant Marvel to produce superior plants.



Plant Marvel is scientifically balanced to feed in liquid form the entire root system. It forces a full development of luxuriant foliage, larger individual flowers and induces prolific blooming habits.

Let us prove the wonders of Plant Marvel to you. Only \$1.25 for enough to make 250 gallons of nutritious Plant Marvel solution. Use as directed. Watch your plants thrive -- if not delighted, return the unused portion for a full refund.

PLANT MARVEL

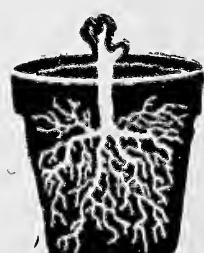
622 W. 119th St. Dept. AV-C Chicago 28, Ill.



Surface feeding means surface roots



Local feeding - note scalded roots



Plant Marvel feeds the entire root system

A: Colored slides may be obtained from our Librarian, Mrs. R. G. Heinsohn, 4720 Calumet Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee providing that you plan to show them to an Affiliated Local Chapter of the Society. Also Cecil Houdyshell Nursery, 1412 Third Street, Laverne, California has slides that they send out and I know that the Syracuse African Violet Society has a number of slides that they took of their Spring Show and arrangements could be made with them. There are probably many others that have slides that can be rented for programs but these are all that I know of now. As to just pictures of violets I haven't heard of any colored sets but it would be nice to have. You could use the covers of some of your magazines until such a set is published.

Have our readers information about slides?

Q: Please help us solve some problems we seem to have with our African violets. My Blue Wonder bloomed on October 17, 1952. On January 8, 1953 some of the outer leaves were limp and I removed them. Two days later more leaves were limp and the plant became wobbly in the pot, so I unpotted it to see if there was something wrong with the roots, but they looked O. K. and I repotted it. By February 2nd more leaves had become limp, so I trimmed off all outer leaves and the roots, making a clean cut across the main trunk, let the cut heal for about an hour, and put the crown in water to re-root. After tiny rootlets began to form, I placed the plant in Vermiculite, and on February 27th I potted it again in soil. So far it seems to be doing all right. Yesterday I noticed the same symptoms on my Mauve Fringette, which had bloomed for the first time in December. I saw a leaf hanging down over the pot, so I felt it and it was rather limp. Then I noticed another leaf which had already turned soft and brown. A third leaf, although still crisp, was discolored for about three-fourths of an inch along the petiole. I took off all three leaves and noticed that the main trunk appeared to be brown and the plant leaned over of its own weight. I unpotted it and cut off all the roots and when I cut across the main trunk, I found it to be rotted. I trimmed it off until I came to good green stock, let it heal, and put it in water to re-root. Is this some kind of rot? If so, what causes it and how can it best be prevented?

The other problem is as follows: I have a nice small single crown plant of Pink Luster, which seemed to be growing all right. It grew rather upright, but one day it "opened up" as it were, and I was so glad because it was beginning to look like like a violet plant. But then in a few days I noticed that the whole crown had turned brown (the outer two rows of larger leaves were fine and green). I picked the crown out and repotted the plant and kept it by itself. It has grown a new crown. Is this crown rot? What is the best remedy, or better yet prevention?

Mrs. Edw. G. Burr, Flushing, N. Y.

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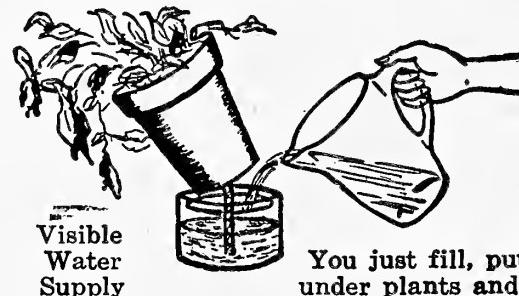
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A: Of all the problems that confront the amateur grower I believe that this is the most common complaint. The majority of us escape mites, mealy bug and nematodes but there are few violet growers that do not have trouble with rot in some form. Plants having the same potting soil and grown in the same windows and given the same amount of water should grow and flourish in much the same manner but in spite of this here and there will be one drooping and upon examination we will find root rot. I would like to know the answer also and do hope that some of our more scientific friends will take pity on us and suggest what to do. In the March 1953 African Violet Magazine there was a splendid article on "Root and Crown Rots of African Violets," but I did not see what to do to prevent this happening. Also in Phil Libby's column of March 1953 "Calling All Men" I noticed that he mentioned that Leonard K. Brewer, of Wyandotte, Michigan believes he has discovered a way to overcome crown rot. I hope that he will soon tell us what to do after he has completed his experiments. The only help I can suggest at the moment for root rot is to be sure the plant is damp before you fertilize so as not to burn the roots and for crown rot be sure and do not drop any water in the crown when you are watering. If you do wipe the drops up with tissue.

Q: Due to a warm winter and an old coal furnace I find one or two plants wilting in the morning. The leaves look dull, stems are watery, the roots are black threads and there is a dull brick red spot where the trunk meets the ground. Is this the same crown rot described in the March issue? How can I sterilize my soil without baking it? Would pouring boiling water into a one-third pail full of soil make it hot enough, long enough to sterilize it? Is there some chemical that could be used to sterilize for crown rot?

Mrs. R. L. Reed, Fair Haven, Vt.

A: I would think that you have root rot. Pouring boiling water in your pail of soil wouldn't sterilize the soil. However, if you covered the pail with a heavy piece of material like an old carpet it would help to keep the heat in for some time. Soilene is a chemical that can be purchased to sterilize the soil in place of baking . . . I understand.

Q: Why do some of my violet leaves curl and yet the plant is in full bloom?

The leaves droop and feel so lifeless on some and yet the plant is in full bloom. Why?

Mrs. Geo. E. Wilmer, Fort Plain, N. Y.

A: Some leaves do curl. If I knew the variety and also if they curl up or down maybe could help you on this one. For your second question I would suggest that you gently take your plant out of the pot and remove the soil from around the roots to see if you have a healthy root system.

It sounds as if it could be the start of root rot. However, by taking it in time you can probably save the plant. If the root system is healthy a repotting in some new soil might help the plant and avoid any further droopy leaves.

Q: I have a table of violets in one of my east windows. On each plant the leaves have developed dried brown spots in the center of the leaf. Otherwise the plants seem entirely healthy and bloom profusely. Is this caused by direct sunlight? My other plants seem to be all right. Also -- what contributes to producing a variegated or albino violet?

Mrs. Edna A. Petzel, Barberton, Ohio

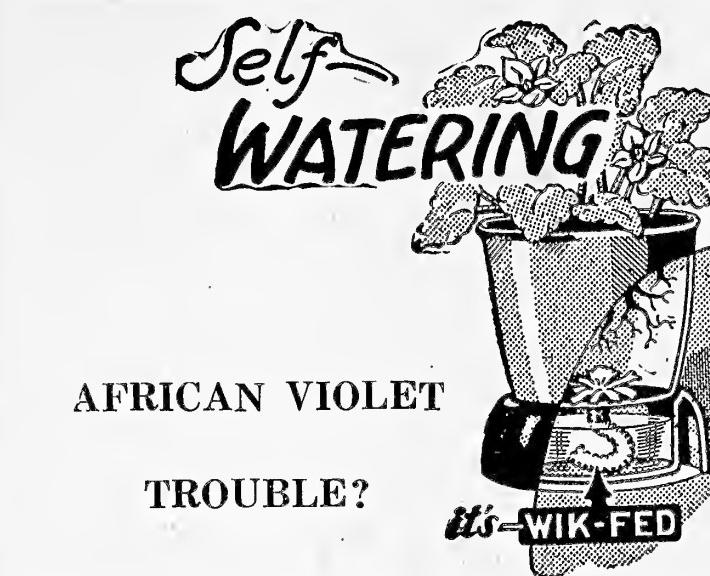
A: I believe that the direct sun rays have burned your leaves. Try putting tissue paper or a thin curtain in the window when the rays are the strongest. This same light that marks the foliage does bring on the bloom. I don't know what produces a variegated violet. All I know is that sometimes a plant of this kind comes from an ordinary leaf and is known as a sport or mutant. One grower told me that it happens about once in a thousand so see how lucky you are to have an Amethyst blossom on variegated foliage? I feel very fortunate as I raised a Blue Bird with variegated foliage. These things just happen.

Q: In March 1951 I had a du Pont Lavender Pink which had an unusual blossom. The five petals were all exactly alike as to size and shape. Even the shading was alike in each petal. I had had no knowledge or experience with African violets so decided I would pollinate this blossom and see if I could produce a plant with blossoms like the one described. I have about eighteen plants from the seed I grew. They all so far have had regular shaped blossoms. Not one with the five petals the same size and shape. Some have smaller and some have larger blossoms than the parent and most of them have darker coloring. What I would like to know; if I root leaves from these seedlings will I stand a chance to get a plant which would have that odd flower?

Some time ago a neighbor was given a leaf off a Snow Girl plant and she put it in water to root. It made a bunch of little plants. They were so small that she brought them to me to see if I would transplant them for her. She had taken three fair sized plants off and the balance were too small but the parent leaf had rotted off so I took a small stick something like a toothpick and transplanted SIXTY plants. Some of them had only two leaves about an eighth of an inch in diameter. I planted them in a tray of peat moss and sealed the top with cellophane and I believe about fifty-five are still alive and growing, some with leaves as much as an inch in diameter. Have you ever heard of so many plants from one leaf?

S. C. Thornton, Princeton, W. Va.

A: I would suggest that instead of taking leaves from the seedlings that you take a leaf



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from the original plant that has the unusual blossoms and hope that it will come true.

No, I have never heard of so many little plants from one leaf. I am sure that many of our readers will be interested, especially in the way that you transplanted them.

Q: What causes mildew? I do manage to clear up mildew through sprays or dusting but after a few days it is back again. I have most of my plants in a large tray. The pots sit on chicken grits which I keep dampened but not too moist. I use rain or lake water. How can I get rid of mildew completely?

Mrs. Marion Davies, Wheatley, Ont.

A: There is a fungi that causes mildew but if you have good spacing which allows plenty of air to circulate between the plants you should be able to clear it up after applying sulphur powder. You didn't mention where your violets were -- in the cellar or main floor. People raising violets in the cellar are warned to have plenty of fresh air around the plants to avoid getting mildew.

Mrs. Davis enclosed a hint that I will pass along. She says that her clear nail polish is a wonderful thing to get rid of mealy bugs. She always keeps a bottle and brush on hand in case of emergency.

Q: Enclosed is a leaf from a plant (Grand Award). The lower leaves seem to be rusty un-

derneath. The plant is blooming and is healthy. It is in a four inch clay pot with a foil rim. No leaves are touching. Could top watering cause it?

Mrs. Clyde Atkinson, Centerville, Iowa

A: The leaf was completely rotted upon arrival so I could tell nothing from it by examining it. If the leaves seem only rusty and not rotted I would think that it might be caused from touching the rim of the pot at an earlier date before you put it in the foil covered pot that it is in now. Has anyone had any experience with rusty leaves and if so what do you do to correct this condition?

Q: I wonder if you could help to find "Double Pink Beauty" which is listed in the Members' Handbook?

Mrs. R. Bartel, Milwaukee, Wisc.

A: I only wish that I could as I would like one myself. However, the reason that you found it listed in the Members' Handbook is that it must have appeared on some Robin or Pigeon list as the list was made up from this source as well as from Registrations and also from dealer's catalogues. That was the Master File and as I understand it from here in order to have a name Registered and be in the Master File you must accompany the name with a complete description of the plant etc. I know that the growers are working on this as there would be a great demand for such a violet but at the present writing I know of no such plant. Many people say they have seen such a plant but when it gets down to color they admit that it was just a little on the lavender side. Someone of the Robins or Pigeons must have a plant that they believe to be Double Pink Beauty or they wouldn't have listed it on their variety sheet. Maybe this person will contact me and then I can tell you where to obtain it.

Q: Where can I purchase "Louise" and "Willie" which were listed in the Members' Handbook?

Mr. R. C. Billmaier, Toledo, Ohio

A: Mr. Neil Miller, Layton's Lake, R. D., Penns Grove 6, New Jersey has the Master File of varieties and would have this information if there is such information on the cards.

Q: Can one continue to get sturdy plants, with large blooms from the original plant over a period of time?

Mrs. F. E. Peterson, Havre, Montana

A: I see no reason why not especially if you repot once a year and keep the neck of the plant down in the soil. Some people have their original plants that are fifteen years old and still blooming.

Q: Recently I've lost several plants. Suddenly I notice a plant on which the leaves are soft and they turn real dark and the plant usually dies. I suspect over fertilizing. If this is it, how much fertilizer solution do you use for each plant in a four inch pot? The lower leaves get soft a day or so before center but no sign of stem rot. If it is crown rot what is the remedy and cause?

Mrs. Everette Olsen, Elroy, Wisc.

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A: You seem to be having the same trouble as a lot of other people with root or crown rot. The minute you find the plants with the outer leaves getting soft take out of the pot and examine to see if your root system is good. If it isn't you can cut the rotted parts off and put the plant in the top of a glass of water and usually can save it if you start in time. Usually the directions are on the box or bottle of fertilizer and you can follow what they suggest. Try following what Mrs. Sutton suggests.

Q: Am unable to obtain the June 1951 issue of our Magazine. Perhaps one of the readers no longer wants this issue and would sell it to me.

Rosa Mae Skeene, Dundee, Ore.

Here are a few more answers to questions asked in the March magazine.

To Rosa Mae Skeene, Dundee, Ore.

In answer to where to get information on Gesneriaceae we do print articles about the plants mentioned in the Gloxinian. My book, "Gloxinias and How to Grow Them" gives information on many Gesneriads as well as the sources of supply.

Isoloma hirsuta can be purchased from Fantastic Gardens, 9550 S. W. 67th Avenue, South Miami, 43, Florida.

Peggy Schultz, Minneapolis, Minn.

To Mrs. O. A. Ashby, Hanson, Ky.

You are right about there being two "Bronze Girls." Here is the history of the one in our Club (Sparrow) as I know it. About June 1950 one of our group attended a violet show and there a "Miss Katie" exhibited this seedling, a cross of Neptune and Blue Girl. She sent me a leaf from the original plant and we had it on our list as "Bronze Girl" because of its dark bronzy leaf. A year or so later we learned of the "Orchid Bronze Girl" so I suggested we go back and just call it "Katie" which I do. However, nine or ten more of our group could have had it and without a doubt would be called "Bronze Girl" because of its wonderfully dark foliage. I did not know it had been sold commercially but I am very sure it is the same plant.

Mrs. Guy Sutton, Alexandria, Va.

To Mrs. W. V. Meade, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Your question interested me very much as I've studied it in my home a lot. This may not be scientific but this I've found to be true for me. I call it "fertilizer burn" and on checking I find that the plant has usually gotten bone dry in "rich soil" or it happens just after I give them more fertilizer. I've examined mine and did not seem to be any rot so I began to study for other causes. Ones I've lost have not acted just like a plant with rot does. These just get a "burn brown" and often the plant eventually recovers. Would enjoy further discussion of this. I had it happen more often to my older plants. Have had

very few cases of it since I soak my plants up and then put my fertilizer water in around edge on top. Put it in until it soaks through. "Never fertilize a dry soil."

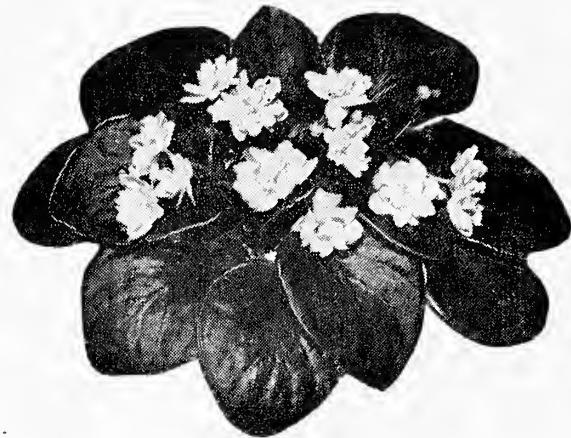
Mrs. Guy Sutton, Alexandria, Va.

To Stanley Kinese, Cleveland, Ohio

As I raise many violets I would like to help you solve your hormone powder problem. My experience with hormone powder is, that placing

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the leaf cutting in the hormone and shaking it off is too much hormone. I lost flat after flat of cuttings because of this. Just dip your paring knife in the powder and shake off and this is plenty. It makes them come up quicker and produce more plants. Very little is needed as it causes them to become soggy.

Mrs. Cloyd Patton, Lima, Ohio

Mrs. R. L. Reed, Fair Haven Vermont sent in the following information about rooting broken leaves. "I was trying to root my last slip from America and it broke in two. So I rigged up a little non-absorbent cotton raft and placed the top of the leaf on this so that the broken edge just touched the water. I have often done this with stems too short to be placed in water otherwise. They rise and fall with the raft as the water evaporates and they seem to enjoy their ride. To make a long story longer both parts of the leaf have rooted and raised plants. The upper half came up first and has one good sturdy plant. The lower half has more than one plant but hasn't come up as quickly."

To Dorothy Stewart, Boston, Mass.
June 1953 issue of the Magazine.

I have had the same trouble "no blossoms" so would like to help you. My husband used to look at my neighbor's plants and then crab at mine for only having leaves. I finally took Mr. Free's advice in his book on African violets. I purchased chicken grits and put some in every dish (about an inch deep), then set my violets on top of the grits. I keep the grits moist at all times but not so water shows and plants will not be setting in constant water. I found that it was lack of humidity that was causing no blossoms. My pots are always moist and with kind of slimy feeling like they are in a green house. It was only a few weeks from that time and my plants started to bud and bloom.

If there is anyone that would be interested in swapping leaves please let me know.

My soil mixture is 1 coffee can African violet soil 1 coffee can sand, 2 coffee cans peat moss. Add a little bone meal. This mixture lets the

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Mrs. Leon C. Osborne, Orange, Conn.

To Mrs. Karl E. Smith, Laconia, N. H.

Something that can be used as a spray in a closed room for mites is End-o-Pest. If she will get a gun of End-o-Pest, open a window and dust each plant well, getting most of the dust in the centers of the mited plants, when the fumes are about gone, or when she is finished spraying close the door tightly, also the windows, put a strip of cloth under the door unless windows in other rooms of house are open, she will find that this is the best cure for mites and less trouble than anything else. Leave the powder remain on the plants until new growth starts and longer if she likes. Then with a fog sprayer she can spray the dust off. Plants will be gray for a time from the End-o-Pest, but well worth it. Try not to inhale too much of the dust, for it gives some people a sore throat for a day or so.

Solange Slivka, Fayette, Ohio

Suppose you know by now that there is a new bomb on the market supposed to be good for African violet ailments, yet harmless to "humans." I have one "D-X Areal Spray" but haven't had time to use it on violets. Have tried it on flowers outside and there is a smell so thought I had better wait until I could air the place well after using it. This sure beats pumping or squeezing a hand sprayer.

Florence T. Foltz, Lewistown, Penna.

To Mrs. Virginia Kramer, Denver, Colo.

I had a plant of Rosy Blue where the crown and the majority of the other leaves turned brown and dried up. I'm not sure of what caused it but I blamed it on an overdose of superphosphate. I pinched all the brown dried leaves off, repotted and held all feedings back for three months or better. The new soil did not contain superphosphate. I now have a nice green plant though a little crooked as it put out a new crown on side of where the old one was first.

Mrs. Earl Morris, St. Michaels, Md.

Thank all of you for your answers as I am sure that your experiences will help us, those with the troubles now and those of us that will acquire these troubles later on.

THE END

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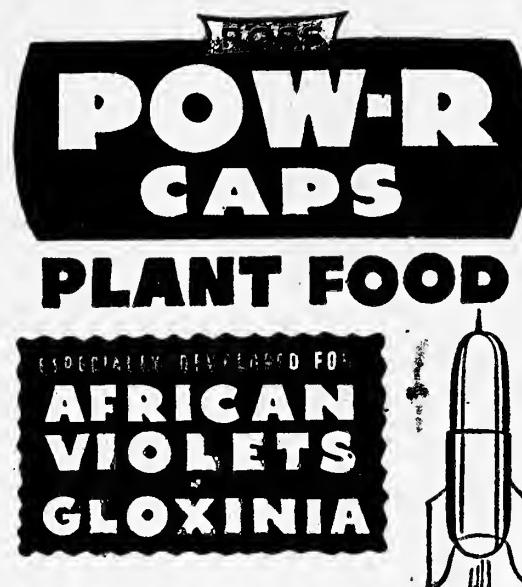
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Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
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Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1; for June, March 1st.

LYNCHBURG VIRGINIA

The First African Violet Society of Lynchburg, Virginia held their first violet show on April 16 and 17, 1953 at the Moser Furniture Company in Lynchburg.

There were over 200 plants in competitive entry, arranged on tables attractively covered in white and green.

Throughout the show rooms, violets in many arrangements were displayed on the beautiful pieces of furniture which are reproduced by the Moser Company.

A table was set with violet china and graced with a lovely violet arrangement.

Mrs. Cora Fuller won the coveted Gold Ribbon Award of the National Society for the best collection of three named varieties, Painted Girl, Spade and Fantasy.

Mrs. Ned Bell won the Purple Ribbon Award with Double Rose, Pastel Girl, and Ice Girl.

Mrs. R. H. Porter won the sweepstakes.

Mrs. Lou Jarrett had a beautiful display of the newer varieties, as well as an exhibit on propagation.

The show was judged by Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Ross from Richmond, Virginia. Club members served as hostesses to the visitors.

SAN PEDRO CALIFORNIA

The newly elected officers of the African Violet Society of San Pedro, California were installed at the regular monthly meeting, February 24, 1953, as follows:

President,	Grace Wilson
Vice-Pres.,	Gertrude Walton
Treasurer,	Marcia Criswell
Secretary,	Ellie Babbitt

The San Pedro Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8 p. m. at the YWCA Building, 437 W. Ninth Street, San Pedro, California.

BEATRICE NEBRASKA

The Beatrice Nebraska African Violet Society held their first show in the YWCA rooms on April 11 and 12, 1953. Visitors numbering over nine hundred representing eight states and sixty towns were present during the two days.

The theme of the show was Violets through the Seasons. The tiered tables which held the show plants were covered with white cloths with violet streamers for color trim. Four small tables were used for the seasons.

The spring table featured a May-pole with dolls dancing around it. Small violets were placed around the display.

The summer table had a crystal pool for the centerpiece and a white picket fence bordered it with an arched gateway at the rear.

The fall table featured the Horn of Plenty which was surrounded by colored leaves and small violets.

The winter table featured Christmas with Santa and his sleigh and reindeer.

An educational table had a place in the center of the room. Here books on violets were placed as well as samples of plant food, potting soil, etc.

The most popular plants of the show were Painted Girl, Snow Prince, and Ruffled Queen.

Mrs. R. W. Stratford was show chairman and Mrs. H. M. Souders is the president.

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

The African Violet Display at the Y.W.C.A., Saskatchewan on Saturday, May 23 was a very successful undertaking. More than 450 people signed the register.

There were 175 violets on display, and according to the ballot which was taken, "Mentor Boy" was voted the most popular variety by a large majority, but ballots were also cast for 53 other varieties. Guests were very pleased to receive their souvenir violet leaf when they cast their ballot.

Using African violets as the floral decoration, three tables spread with pastel colored cloths of yellow, green and pink, featured antique glass, hand painted china and brass.

A collection of unusually attractive violets, of different varieties, made up the special display table.

Much interest was shown in the three tables on plant foods, propagation and fluorescent lighting where those in charge offered helpful information.

Dressed in a complimentary mauve suit Mrs. Gordon Grant, wife of Regina's mayor was introduced by Mrs. E. E. Brockelbank, and was presented a violet by Mrs. H. F. Thomson, when she officially opened the display at 3 o'clock.



Seated at the speakers' table at the spring luncheon sponsored by the three African Violet Clubs of Elgin.

Left to Right —

Mrs. Ernest L. Bensen, president of the Unique Club, Mrs. Leo Schmidt, president of the Lady Constance Club, Mrs. Forrest Richter of Hammond, Indiana, guest speaker, Mrs. George Adams, president of the Buttons and Bows Club.

Standing Left to Right —

Mrs. Joseph Cyka, a past president; Mrs. E. G. Magill, National president-elect; Mrs. John C. Wills, a sponsor; Mrs. Stanley McBride, a past president and Mrs. George Mayer of Calumet City, Illinois.

DISTRICT MEETING IN ELGIN

The Unique, Lady Constance and the Buttons and Bows African Violet Clubs of Elgin, Illinois entertained one hundred and sixty (160) African violet lovers, at the district spring luncheon on April 8th at the Masonic Temple in Elgin.

Violet plants were used as centerpieces on the tables and a violet corsage and programs to match were at each setting.

Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, Illinois offered the invocation.

Mrs. John C. Wills sponsor of the three Elgin violet clubs greeted the guests and introduced those at the speaker's table, also Mrs. Fred Bellings, past president of the Unique Club, who was not present when the picture was taken.

The following clubs, responded to roll call: The First African Violet Club, The Twilight, Roseonna, and Elite Chapters all of Chicago; The Admiral Branch of Aurora, Rantoul Branch of Rantoul, The Rockford African Violet Club and the We-Go Club of West Chicago. Also Whiting and Hammond Indiana. Many towns near

Elgin were represented and members and friends from Elgin.

Mrs. John Wills introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Forrest Richter of Hammond, Indiana -- she took the group on a "visit through her greenhouse with colored slides," explaining the best methods of propagation and showing many of the different varieties of violet plants they raise. Mrs. Arthur Endres of Whiting, Indiana assisted in showing the slides. Mrs. Richter afterward answered questions from the floor.

After the meeting the group enjoyed the many plants on display and the opportunity of making new friends and renewing old friendships.

JACKSON MICHIGAN

The second annual African Violet Display sponsored by the Jackson African Violet Club of Jackson, Michigan was held April 22, 1953 at Saint Pauls Guild House in Jackson. Visitors viewed approximately two hundred choice plants from 1 p. m. to 8 p. m. Mrs. Robert Preston was General Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Karl Beiswenger, Mrs. Albert Lambert, Mrs. A. M. Fischer and Mrs. Leslie McLaury.

SCOTIA NEW YORK

The Mohawk Valley African Violet Society held its first Show at the Century Club in Scotia, New York.

Interesting display, high color and one of the largest attendances in the history of the Century Clubhouse for a flower show, marked this first competitive show. An estimated one thousand five hundred persons from local and surrounding areas and other states viewed the exhibits.

Displayed around the sides of the room, on tables with a white background, decorated with green and orchid, were violets of both double and single varieties, and colors in many shades and tones, all blending in a melody of color.

In front of the stage, was one of the highlights of the show, where these lovely plants were shown in a woodland setting of ferns, moss, and rocks, miniature pools with frogs and ducks, a beautiful orchid, and gloxinias in the background. Violets were nestling among the rocks and crevices, and butterflies lighting here and there.

In the center of the room were the pollination table, violets arranged in baskets, shells, driftwood arrangements, and many others in unusual containers. A pretty doll, in Colonial dress of orchid attached to girl plants by narrow orchid streamers was of special interest.

On the right of the stage were plants shown in a natural setting of bark and mossy logs; to the left of the stage was the growing of violets in an antique sugar bowl, cup and saucer and attractively arranged in a shadow box with inside lighting.

Other features included information on violet culture, seeds grown on a brick and seedlings.

The following awards were presented: Frederick Theileman, first National award, gold ribbon; Mrs. H. F. Aussicker, second National award, purple ribbon; Mrs. Peter F. Passera, sweepstakes; Frederick Theileman, runner-up; and Mrs. James Wallace, queen of the show.

Judges were Mrs. James W. Minehan, Mrs. Harold Reinhardt and George H. Milligan.

Officers elected at the May meeting are:

President,	Mrs. C. A. Hansen, Jr.
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Bernard Gleasman
Rec. Secy.,	Mr. Peter F. Passera
Financial Secy.,	Mrs. Robert F. Wolff
Treasurer,	Mr. Harry F. Penistan

DES MOINES IOWA

The Des Moines African Violet Club of Des Moines, Iowa met at the home of Mrs. Earl Williams at Prairie City on April 7, 1953, for the annual election of officers. The following were elected to office:

President,
Vice-Pres.,
Secretary,
Treasurer,

Mrs. Earl Williams
Mrs. M. B. Wigton
Mrs. Leo R. Brown
Mrs. Glenn Petersen

Meetings are to be held on the third Monday of each month. Test plants were given out to be returned in September.

At the February meeting each of the original twenty-one members brought a guest interested in becoming a member, so with forty-two present the Constitution was adopted, affiliation with the National Society voted and the year's program proposed.

As one feature of the Burlington County Farm Fair there is a Flower Show. African violets have a place this year and a chance to win a blue ribbon.

With a motto -- Violets, for Beauty, for Friendship -- this new club is off to a good start.

SPRINGFIELD PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania elected the following officers for 1953:

President,	Mrs. Ralph G. Frye
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Donald Taber
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. James Craig
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. B. Carll
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wm. C. Zachow

MOLINE ILLINOIS

The Moline African Violet Society, Chapter 1, was organized April 20, 1953 at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. W. Franklin Peterson.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. W. Franklin Peterson
Vice Pres., &	Mrs. Arthur Petrie
Historian,	
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Elmer Sauer

Meetings will be held in the homes on the third Monday afternoon of each month. For the present the membership is limited to ten and all must be members of the National Violet Society.

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

The South St. Louis African Violet Club, Chapter 7 of South St. Louis, Missouri was organized October 15, 1952 with twenty-five charter members.

The following officers were elected for 1953:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Gersbacher
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Minerva Scheid
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Martin Miller
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Lee Klaski
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. Wahnung

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the members' homes.

MT. HOLLY NEW JERSEY

In Mt. Holly, New Jersey on January 19, 1953, twenty-one African violet enthusiasts met to organize a club. The name they chose was the Rancocas Valley African Violet Club. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Edgar Harris
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. James Mathis
Secretary,	Mrs. Charlotte Hurley
Treasurer,	Mr. E. M. Marks
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Robert Stevenson

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California held their annual election of officers at the May meeting. The newly elected officers are:

President,	Mrs. Bertha Finke
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ruby Durst
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. W. C. Green
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Herbert Dashiell
Treasurer,	Mrs. William Cameron

Meetings are held at 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Sacramento Garden Center.

MARYSVILLE KANSAS

The Marysville Society was organized at the home of Mrs. R. E. Tatlock on January 25, 1952. Meetings are held in the VFW Hall on the fourth Friday of each month.

Officers chosen were:

President,	Miss Anna Cherney
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. C. Tatlock
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Thomas C. Farrell
Historian,	Mrs. Homer Scoggon

DAYTON OHIO

The Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton, Ohio installed the following officers at its March meeting:

President,	Mrs. Clyde Demmitt
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. B. A. Hall
Secretary,	Mrs. L. K. Harris
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wm. Weiss

The installation ritual was written by one of the members, Mrs. K. M. Kester. Each new officer was presented with an African violet by the retiring president, Mrs. Paul Hook.

Committees were appointed for the coming year by the new president, as well as arrangements for future meetings. The club has a membership of thirty and is an affiliated club.

A panel discussion on seedlings and fluorescent lights was presented by Mrs. Elmer Loomis and Mrs. Paul Hook.

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SPRINGFIELD PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Pennsylvania held its Fifth Annual Exhibition Saturday, April 18, at the Central School auditorium in Springfield. The show was open from one to eight P.M. and during that time over four hundred guests came to admire the display of beautiful plants and arrangements. Over 106 varieties were on view, 32 of which had not been displayed in previous shows. There were about 200 single entries as well as 20 arrangements. Among the unusual varieties were the S. grotei -- the hanging baskets, and many unnamed plants with spectacularly marked blossoms.

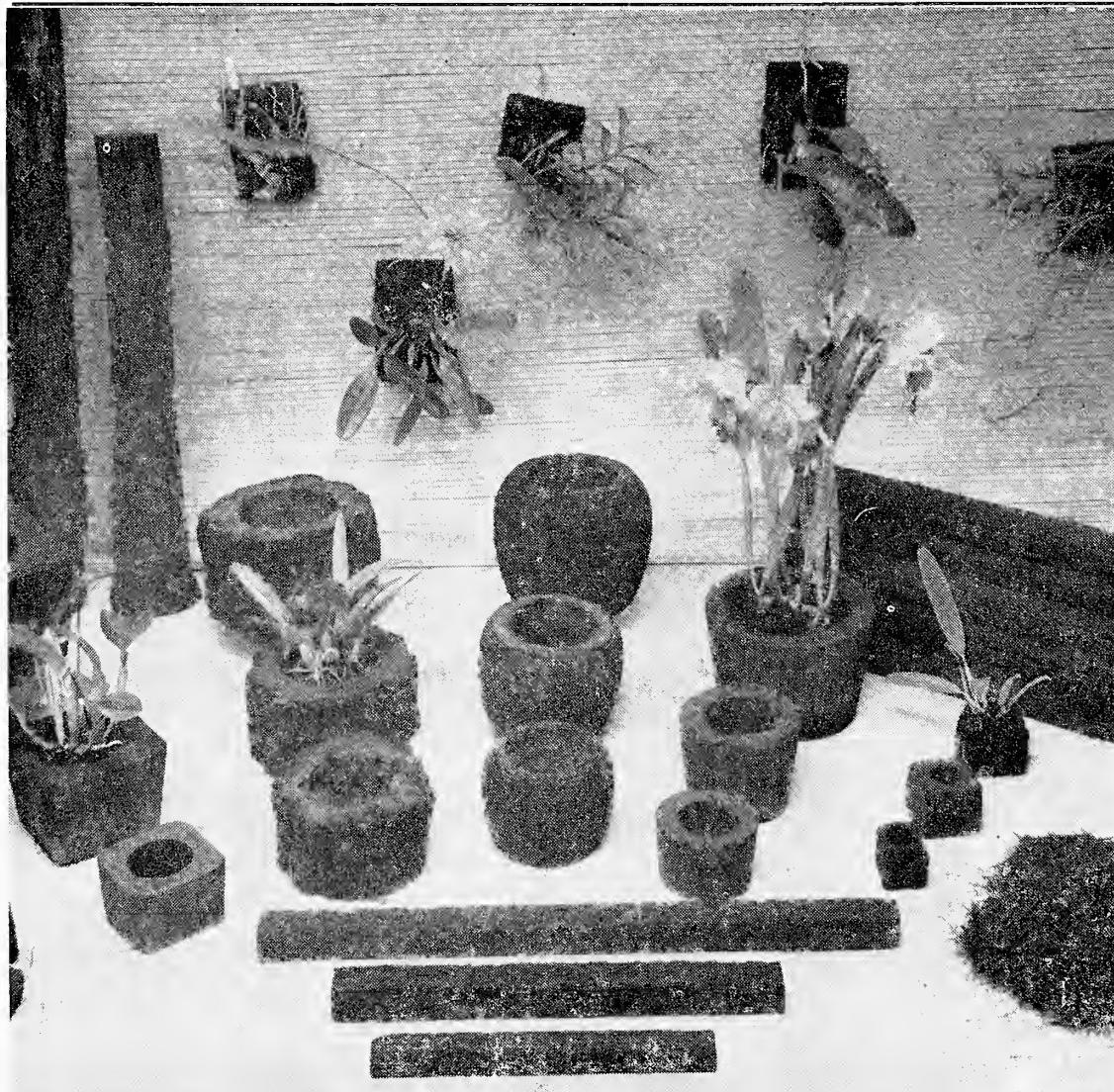
The "Girl" plants were displayed with a collection of dolls; and one unusual table showed "African Violet Plants in their Natural Setting." As usual the propagation table had a constant group of people crowded around asking questions.

A fluorescent lamp was set up with several plants of all sizes grouped under it to show how the light brings out any trace of color present in a leaf.

The arrangements were all lovely, and one grouping of plants featured a cage of tropical birds. An antique dry sink held a large selection of violets, and a lighted candle set on the rim in a brass holder gave a lovely feeling to the display. Another table was a miniature garden complete with running fountain, figures, and plantings of African violets.

Even though ours is an exhibition rather than a judged show, there is usually an outstanding plant; however, this year every exhibitor had outstanding plants and no one could be singled out.

Mrs. Howard Morris was chairman of the show and every member of the club had duties on her committee.



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from Hawaii, gives a "tropical" look to your plants. Tree Fern containers, fresh fern fiber that is mildly acid, are especially suitable for home plants. The roots of the plants eventually penetrate throughout the tree fern. The containers remain in their original shape for years.

Saintpaulias do well planted directly in the containers, or the whole pot can be inserted. Climbing plants, as the philodendrons, adhere to the "totem" pole types.

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SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

MANHATTAN KANSAS

The Manhattan African Violet Society of Manhattan, Kansas held its Second Annual Show in the American Legion Hall on March 22, 1953. It was staged under the supervision of J. S. Coryell, with the assistance of several capable committees.

Ribbons were awarded for first, second and third place as well as a special award for honorable mention in each class. There was a cash award for the best un-named seedling.

An outstanding feature was the number of the newer varieties shown. The show drew African violet fans from a radius of 150 miles. Approximately 800 visitors signed the guest book. The show was judged by Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Merriam, Kansas and Mrs. Robert Montgomery of Kansas City.

DAVENPORT IOWA

CHAPTER 1

The Davenport African Violet Society, Chapter 1 of Davenport, Iowa held their first annual exhibit on Sunday afternoon March 29, 1953 at the Municipal Art Gallery from 1:30 to 5 p. m. Nine hundred twenty-five visitors were present from several surrounding cities as well as the Davenport area.

More than 200 of the newer varieties were on display. There were also seedlings from crosses made by the members.

CHAPTER 2

The Davenport African Violet Society, Chapter 2, Davenport, Iowa, was organized on March 19, 1953 at the home of Miss Lauretta Littig. Eight ladies were present and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President,	Mrs. Elmer Wulf
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ben Ketelar
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. J. W. Henshaw

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA

The African Violet Society of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma elected the following officers to take office at the May meeting:

President,	Mrs. Herbert Miller
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. C. Bass
Secretary,	Mrs. Howard E. Albright
Treasurer,	Mrs. C. F. Crim
Council Delegate,	Mrs. J. M. Perry

Correction

In the March issue listed under St. Louis the officers were erroneously listed. The correct list of officers is as follows:

President,	Mrs. Foster A. Dill
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Charles C. Calcaterra
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. R. K. Nalley

FALL PRICE LIST

LEAF CUTTINGS AND PLANTS

PLANT ORDERS The plant prices listed are for single crown plants in 2½" pots in bud or bloom. The largest available are always sent, but it is necessary to list several substitutes in case we are temporarily out of any variety. These plants are shipped in their pots, packed 25 to a carton and are sent express collect. (These can be 25 different varieties if desired.)

NOTE: Orders for less than 25 plants can not be sent.

LEAF ORDERS Leaves may be ordered in any quantity and are sent postpaid by first class mail to speed delivery. Many of them are already rooted.

NOTE: On orders under \$5.00 please add 50¢ for postage and packing.

*Varieties marked with this star are my own introductions.

FEATURING "Painted Boy" etc. as enclosed

NEWEST VARIETIES — PLANT \$1.75 LEAF 75¢

All Aglow	Frosty
Dbl. Fringed Wh. Lace	Pink Wonder
*Evening Shade	Silver Lining
Fantasy Girl	Snow Line
NEWEST VARIETIES — PLANT \$1.50 LEAF 50¢	
Blue Buttercup	Albino
Fantasy Supreme	Alma Wright
Lav. Pk. Princess Sup.	Autumn
Moon Ripples	Blue Ohio
Pink Attraction	Holly
Portland Rose	Ruby Girl
*Ruffled Dbl. Orch. Nep.	*Show Man
*Snow Prince Sup.	*Snow Ball
Springfield Beauty	Twinkle

NEWEST VARIETIES — PLANT \$1.25 LEAF 35¢

PAINTED BOY — Mottled dark blue and white —

Blue Ribbon Winner at Nashville Convention

Apple Blossom	Blue Star
*Dbl. Lav. Eyed Beauty	Crazy Quilt
Evening Star	Eclipse
Frilled Blue Delight	*Glory
Pansy Beauty	Purple Lace
Ruffled Beauty	Violet Geneva
THESE NEW VARIETIES PLANT \$1.00 LEAF 35¢	
*Dbl. Sailor Girl	*Blue Sheen
Dbl. Fringed White	Baby Pink
Dbl. Neptune Supreme	*Delightful
*Dbl. Sunset Girl	Gypsy Pink
Evening Sunset	*Lav. Eclipse
Fringed Dbl. Orchid	Red Princess
Geneva's Daughter	Ruffled Queen
Light Blue DuPont	Suprita
S. magungensis	Velvet Girl
S. tongwensis	Wine Velvet

THESE NEW VARIETIES PLANT 75¢ LEAF 25¢

Blue Charm	*Bridesmaid
Blue Heiress	Carmen
Bronze Bicolor	Corsage
*Dbl. Gorg. Bl. Wonder	Double Rose
Double Lady	Fantasy
Dbl. Orchid Neptune	Firechief
Dbl. Rose and White	Innocence
DuPont Delight	Magnifico
Gorg. Blue Wonder	Lady Grace
*Lav. Eyed Beauty	Pink Delight
Navy Bouquet	Pink Sheen
Painted Girl	Pink Cheer
Queen Betty	Pink Fantasy
Ruffles Bouquet	Red Lady
Saintpaulia Grotei	Snow Prince
Ulery's Orchid Hybrid	Star Girl
Violet Beauty Supreme	*Wonder Girl
THESE VARIETIES — PLANT 75¢ LEAF 20¢	
Azure Beauty	Delight
Dark Beauty	Purity
Dbl. Blue Hybrid	Purity No. 2
Double Neptune	Red Velvet
Dbl. Sea Girl	Rose Lady
Orchid Sunset	Sailor Girl
Red Girl Hybrid	Snow Girl

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Special Control for Household Plants. Here's quick relief from insects that cause your Saintpaulia leaves to curl, droop and drop, and ugly, white cottony masses to form between stalks and leaves. Viol-Ogen Spray is an easy-to-use positive control of mealy bugs, cyclamen mites and other pests that cause plants to shrivel, and die, yet are almost invisible to the naked eye. Especially made for indoor plants, Viol-Ogen Spray is harmless to humans and pets. Large 4-oz can (one teaspoon makes one pt spray) only \$1.

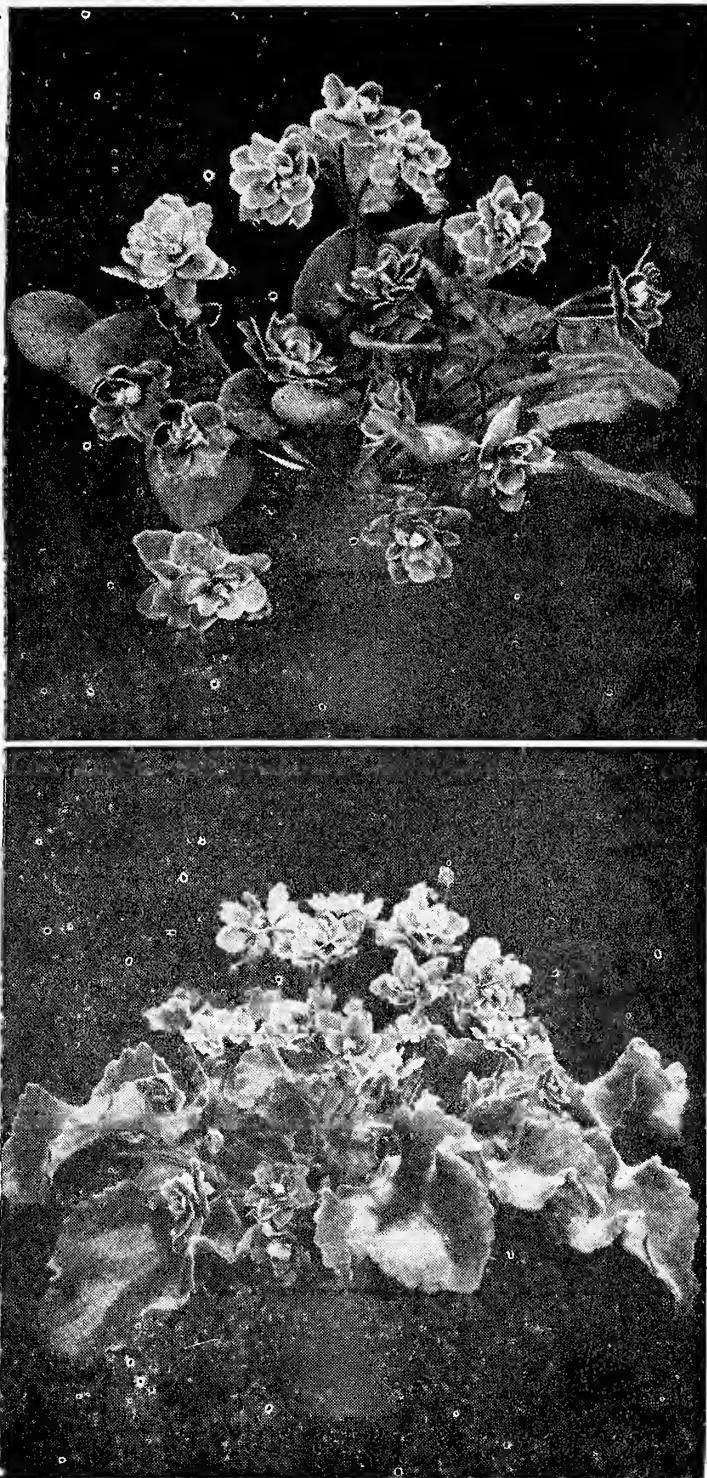


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The dark blue companion plant. Petals white-edged. Foliage dark green with wavy edge. A prolific bloomer.

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Blue Horizon . . . \$3.00

both plants only \$5.00

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Pink Wonder . . . \$2.50 each.

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Holley, Lady Geneva Supreme, Geneva's Daughter, Ruffled Queen, Star Amethyst (new)
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SPECIAL VARIETY GROUP . . . \$1.00 each.

Apple Blossom	Double Fringed White
*Black Fringe	Double Rose
Blue Heiress	Frilled Blue Delight
Blue Knight	Grotei
*Christina	*Helen Wilson Bouquet

*Mammoth Red
*Sugar Plum Girl
Star Girl
Violet Girl

WELL KNOWN VARIETIES . . . 75¢ each.

*Amazon Blue Eyes	Lacy Girl	Purity	Snow Prince
Azure Beauty	Lady Geneva	Purple Girl	Star Sapphire
Blue Warrior	Lav. Girl Hybrid	Purple Prince	Sunrise
Burgundy	*Marine Bouquet	Red Bi-Color	*Tinari's America
Crinkles	*Miss Liberty	Red King	*Tinari's Pink Luster
Dark Beauty	*Navy Bouquet	Red Lady	Tinted Lady
Double Neptune	Neptune	*Ruby Bouquet	*Velvet Bouquet
DuPont Blue	Norseman	Ruffles	Violet Beauty
DuPont Lav. Pink	Painted Girl	*Ruffles Bouquet	*Wine Velvet
Fantasy	Pink Cheer	Ruffled Beauty	
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Silver Sheen, S. cupreata, S. coccinea, S. lilacina . . . \$1.50 each.

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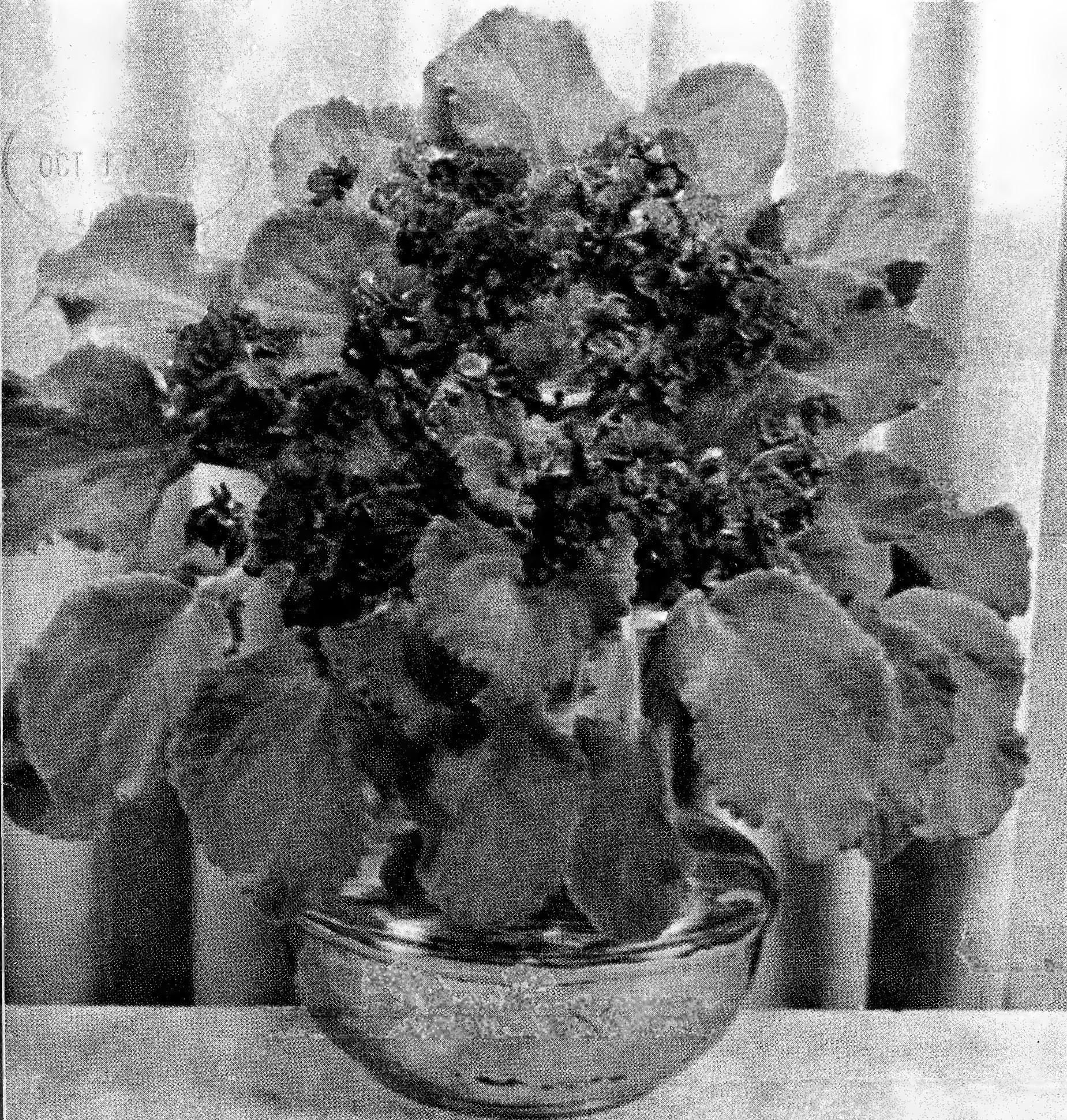
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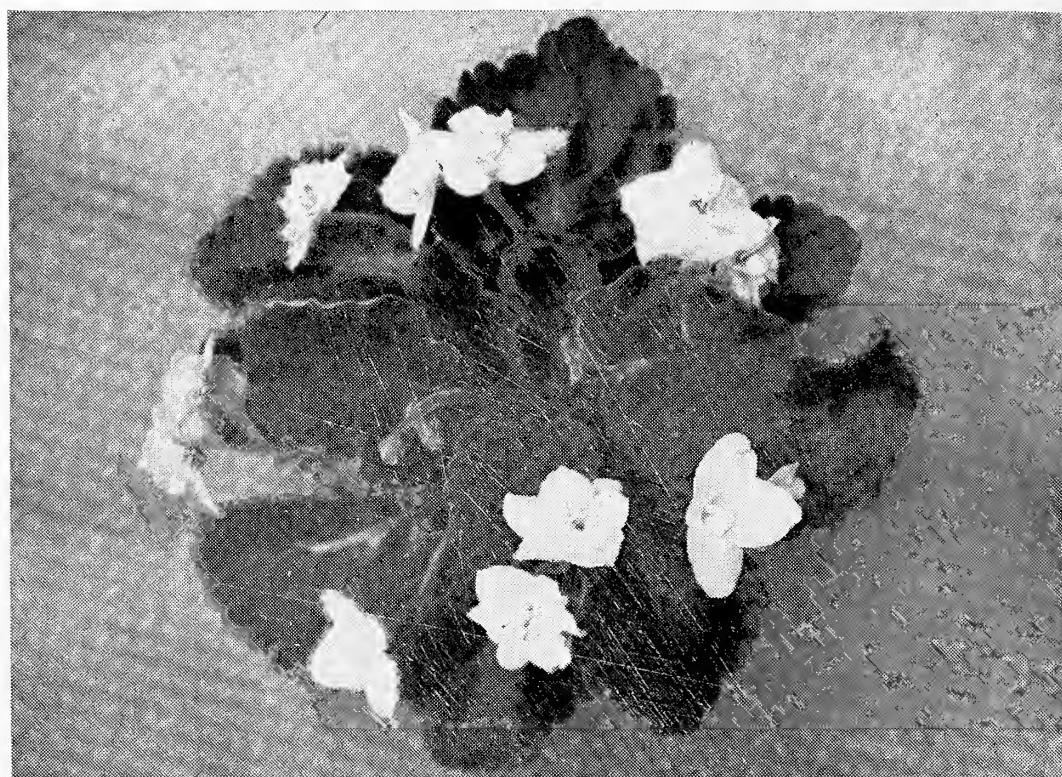
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AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE APRIL 1, 1954

Fleur Petite	Gay Coquette	Rainbow King
Cherie	Peg O' My Heart	Frau Merai
Cochet	Mine Alone	Gaylass
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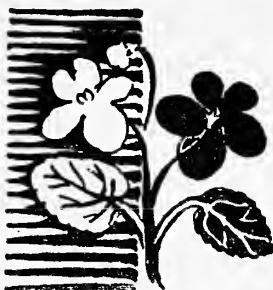
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THE SECRET OF FINE AFRICAN VIOLETS

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 7 December 1953 No. 2

READER'S CONTEST — Ima Chatterton mixed soil and your editor mixed numbers. See pages 34 and 35. The letter to me with your favorite soil mixture having the earliest postmark wins a free membership — editor.

FRONT COVER: Double Margaret from the editor's collection

	Page
Tell You What	4
Poet's Corner	6
President's Message	7
Back In The Early Days	8
The Editor	8
May I Quote You ??	
Daisy Jones	13
History Of Saintpaulia	
Evan Roberts	14
Mineral Deficiency Symptoms in Saintpaulias	
Renee B. Choitz	16
April In St. Louis	
Grace B. Wayman	21
Light Is The All-Important Factor	
Irene Pendleton	23
Show -- News and Views	24
Fundamentals of African Violet Culture	
Helen Pochurek	31
Nutrient Balance	
Mrs. Armstrong Jones	32
Collecting Dirt	
R. E. Memberthis	34
Potting Soil and Compost	
A. J. Bowden	36
Question Box	40
Calling All Men	43
Hot Summer Discouraged Bloom	
Martha Seefeldt	44
Nematode Problem	
A. L. Taylor	45
The Homing Pigeon	48
New Affiliated Chapters	50
Gene's Scrap Book	
Daisy Jones	51
Seedlings -- For Tranquility and Peace of Mind	
Vera Covert	52
Report of Judging School Chairman	54
Qualified Judges	55
Overwatering Is A Cultural Fault	
Irene Pendleton	56
Registration Report	57
Planting By The Moon	
Ada Muir	59
Club News	60

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BLACK MAGIC:	Very large double deep blue, nice pliable foliage	\$1.00
BLUE HORIZON:	A beautiful shade of dark blue, large flowers	\$1.50
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SNOW PRINCE (Supreme):	Giant white, nice DuPont foliage	\$0.75
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We are accepting orders for early spring delivery on these outstanding varieties (LIMITED AMOUNT). Orders will be filled in the order they are received.

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BLUE FROSTY: The same foliage of Frosty with a nice large vivid blue blossom — \$3.00

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TELL YOU WHAT . . .

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio. Make checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Please do not send them to the editor of the Magazine.

DUES — \$3.00 for a twelve months period. There are no \$2.00 memberships. The Magazine is included in each membership.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

ERRORS IN MEMBERSHIP CARDS, MAGAZINE ADDRESS, HANDBOOK LISTING OR FAILURE TO RECEIVE MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — you may subscribe to the African Violet Magazine for \$3.00. This is for a twelve months period. Membership in the Society is not included with subscription.

CURRENT ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost to members .75¢ per copy. To non-members \$1.00 per copy.

BACK ISSUES — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee and get a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make all checks for back issues payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 79 West Gibson Street, Canandaigua, N. Y.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Ada Magill, 707 South 4th Street, Aurora, Illinois

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost is \$5.50 for two. Orders for one binder are not accepted.

COLOR SLIDE PROGRAMS — write librarian 4720 Calumet Drive, S. W., Knoxville 19, Tennessee. Three months notice is required for reservation.

HOMING PIGEON — to join the Pigeon write to Iva Woods, 226 High Street, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. To drop out of a Pigeon group or to find a lost one communicate with Mrs. Woods.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR LOCAL SHOWS — write Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO YOU ALL . . .

Mary and Alma

CLUB NEWS — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry Iowa.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — For September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — unless previous agreement is made with the editor pictures cannot be returned.

AFRICAN VIOLET PIN — may be purchased from the pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. The Pin, or Lapel Button for men, may be had in sterling silver and blue enamel for \$3.50 or in 14 carat gold and blue enamel for \$12.50, including state and federal tax, plus packing and shipping charges.

When ordering please print your name and address. This pin is for National members only. Profits from the sale of these pins are the jewelers, only.

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK — is mailed out to all members of the Society. Write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee if you do not receive your copy.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS AND BROCHURES — specify number required when writing editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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c Tube Craft, Inc.
Model B

MAKES AN IDEAL GIFT

The FloraCart makes an ideal gift the year around. One customer who bought one as a gift for his wife wrote: "I am delighted with the entire set-up. It is all and more than you advertised."

The FloraCart can be used for all types of house plants in addition to African Violets. It is also ideal for use in plant propagation, for forcing spring flowering bulbs, and for revitalizing sick plants.

Choose either one of two models. Model B illustrated above has 3 shelves and is 52" long x 19" deep x 57" high without top bracket. Model C, illustrated to the right, has 2 shelves and is 52" long x 19" deep x 37" high without top bracket. Both models come without fluorescent fixtures or top bracket, but this equipment can be furnished. The illustrations on this page show both models with top bracket and fluorescent fixtures attached.

It's Fun to Garden
with a

Tube Craft FloraCart

TRADE MARK

the portable indoor greenhouse

That's what our customers tell us. One customer writes: "I wish to tell you how much I'm enjoying my FloraCart. I have never had so much fun as I'm having with the cart. My violets are doing fine and the leaves grow little plants so much faster for me. In fact, I never had much luck in starting violets before, but now I have all kinds of little plants. I have plants always in bloom."



Model C
c Tube Craft, Inc.

PRICES

Model B — \$52.50 (without fluorescent fixtures or top bracket)
Shipping Weight 100 lbs.

Model C — \$41.50 (without fluorescent fixtures or top bracket)
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Dept. C, 1950 W. 114th Street, Cleveland 2, Ohio



Poets Corner

ODE TO MY HOBBY

My husband thinks I'm slightly "teched"
And maybe he is right,
I tend those blessed violets
From morning into night.
I rush around with watering can
I sterilize soil and pot,
Then feed and prune and brush and bathe
And watch for signs of rot.
I spend long hours in studying
The culture of the brute,
Then morning, evening, afternoon
Discussing them to boot.
I wonder why I haven't time
For things I used to do?
It shouldn't be a mystery—
I'll bet it's clear to you!

Josephine Charles

JUST VIOLETS

We were only native violets,
Living in a shady dell;
Down in deepest Africa,
Where sunbeams cast their spell.
Our homes were made of limestone,
Covered with mosses green;
We peeped shyly out of fairy nooks,
Never to be seen.
Came one day a plant collector,
We violets he espied;
He sent us to a foreign country,
Where, it's true, we really thrived.
Now our home may be a mansion,
Or a cottage by the sea;
Where our owners like to show us off,
At lovely, fancy teas.
They love our modest beauty,
For the happiness they bring
To many busy people
And for those who are shut in.

Mrs. C. E. Fuller

THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS

T'is the month before Christmas, and all thru
the rooms
Every corner is filled with Saintpaulia blooms.
The coats that are hung in the hall-way with care
Can not be put on, for the plants that are there.
Each window is shelled, the piano is covered;
Lazy Susan is tired, from being out numbered!
And in the East window, the old antique table
Holds many more plants than the poor thing
is able.
The bed room windows are filled with just lots
While the dresser holds feeders, with
twenty-two pots.
In the kitchen the cupboard is bared, and
receives—
A lamp that will incubate four pans of leaves.
The shelves have been stripped of all china
and glass
And hold Inspiration, Red Princess, White Lass.
A what-not in the corner contains several more—
And the table's so full, some are set on the floor.
They've over flowed to the shop, where on
window sills wide,
They show off their beauty to people outside.
Taffeta, Holly and Blue Heiress are "lush"
While Purity's as white as a snowball bush.
Huge Violet Beauty, altho' it seems strange,
Takes up one whole end of a new Roper Range.
Each stove now holds four -- the Laundry
Twins, three—
The freezer rack makes a fine nursery.
Single ones, double ones, every color and hue—
I'm as crowded as the old lady who lived in
a shoe.
I'm telling you, friends, I pray day and night
That Santa will bring me a cart with a light!

Joy McKillip

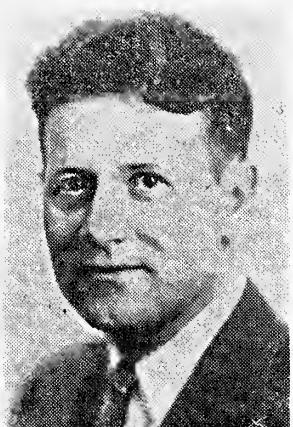
A MILLION LITTLE FACES

I have a million little faces
Sitting on my windowsill;
A gaudy bit of rainbow,
Which is enjoyed at will.
Bright is this row of loveliness
Looking to the sky;
Dressed in many colors
Flaunting their blossoms high.
Yet not so very long ago,
All they wore was blue,
But now they have changed their style
And come in rainbow hue.
Don't think you'll try "just one of these,"—
That will never do,
For you will find that, bye and bye,
You'll want your rainbow, too.

Verne Ohm Wollen

President's Message

AT THE YEAR'S CLOSE



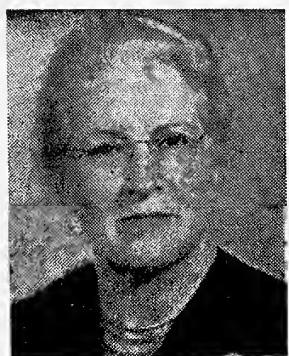
How quickly this year has rolled around! It has indeed been a year of much activity and the African violet has made great strides. Our fine Handbook, marvelous convention, new varieties, wonderful articles in the various magazines and this -- your "Christmas" issue, all prove the popularity of African violets!

I want to personally thank my fellow officers for the splendid cooperation and great help that they have given me. It has indeed been a pleasure to work with Ruth, Ada, Aletha, Lila, Emily and Myrtle. This surely is true of Alma Wright, our editor and her fine editorial staff. Our Regional Councilors deserve much credit for their unstinted work! Our Society could not function without this cooperation which is so graciously given.

I want to especially greet our incoming president, Mrs. E. G. Magill -- more familiarly known to all of us as "Ada." I know that our African Violet Society is in very capable hands and I pledge her my utmost cooperation.

A WORD TO THE WISE:

1. Please do not send money to our editor or librarian -- do NOT send cash. Please make checks or post office money orders out to our Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio!
2. Plan NOW for the St. Louis convention. Information is to be found elsewhere in this issue. Send in your reservations EARLY. (Some are already in!)
3. NEW Chairman of the Affiliated Society groups is: Mrs. Samuel Rowe, 749 Columbia St., Aurora, Illinois. Please send all correspondence, renewals, etc. to her.
4. Our Constitution and By-Laws is in the process of being revised and brought up-to-date. Copies will be available in the near future.
5. Announcement on your Handbook will be made in March.
6. Remember your African violet friends with memberships to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. They will thank you a "thousand times" as each issue of the Magazine is received! Do this at once -- don't delay!
7. Please remember the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund. Send all remittances and correspondence concerning this to the chairman -- Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, 5611 Newton Road, Rt. 1, Merriam, Kansas. There is much that can be done in the field of research if funds are available. This will in turn answer some of your intricate problems.



Ada Magill

Sincerely,

Floyd L. Johnson



Attending the November 8, 1946 Show in Atlanta were, front row, Helen Pochurek, Fay Wilcox, Mrs. D. E. Richards; Second row, Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, Mrs. P. J. Crowe, Ferne Kellar, Alma Wright; Third row, first two ladies unidentified, Mrs. Joseph Hodan, Mel Greggs, Mrs. J. W. Freed and Myrtle Radtke.

BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS

By the Editor

In the late summer of 1946 Charles J. Hudson, Jr. who is connected with the H. G. Hastings Company, Pioneer Seedsmen of Atlanta, phoned a number of African violet people in Atlanta, Georgia regarding a proposed African Violet Show that would be held at Hastings in Downtown Atlanta. Many subsequent conversations ensued and Mr. Hudson decided to call the group together. The following attended the meeting at Hastings; Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, Mrs. Jane Coleman, Mrs. Thelma Miller, Mrs. Hinton Blacksheer, V. S. Starr, Boyce M. Edens, Mrs. H. G. Carter, Nelson Crist and others whose names I do not recall at this time. The outcome of this meeting was a rather unanimous decision to hold a well organized show at Hastings Show Rooms on November 8 and 9, 1946.

Mr. Hudson took charge of the organization of this show and personally gave a great deal

of time to it, and was very largely responsible for its success. In response to a quarter page advertisement run by Hastings in the Atlanta Newspapers, the local growers of African violets began to drop in at Hastings to pledge their support of the Show and also to pledge entries of their own African violets in the Show.

The Show came off in grand style. Was attended by more than eight thousand people and the Show Rooms at Hastings were literally filled with blooming African violet plants. It was really a grand rally on the part of almost everyone interested in growing African violets in Atlanta and also in a number of other cities in the Southeastern States.

Attending the Show were many people from a distance. Some came as visitors to meet with friends and enjoy the first show of this plant they were so interested in and others as judges

for the Show. A few of the out of towners were: Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. J. W. Freed, Feasterville, Pennsylvania; Mrs. D. E. Richards, Knoxville, Tennessee; Mrs. Joseph Hodan, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Mrs. Frank Pochurek, Cleveland Ohio; Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, Tennessee; Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. P. J. Crowe, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, High Point, North Carolina; Miss Fay Wilcox, and Mel Greggs of New Bedford, Pennsylvania and some others whose names now escape my memory.

Two Atlanta ladies did much to bring many of these guests to Atlanta. Our thanks to Mrs. G. E. Rhodes and Mrs. F. L. Beers who wrote glowing letters and extended friendly invitations to a number of out of town collectors. Their enthusiasm had proven infectious and their warm invitations so inviting that "violet fiends" from thither and yon felt compelled to attend this African Violet Show and meet these hospitable ladies.

A night meeting was held for both out-of-town and local people in the Blue Flame Room of the Atlanta Gas Light Company on the evening of November 8, 1946. The room was crowded with

enthusiastic people and with Mr. Hudson presiding, a Society was suggested, and by unanimous vote a temporary organization was set up to explore the possibility of a permanent organization. Atlanta organized a local society and elected officers and appointed committees. An informative program with a movie on the "Care and Culture of the Saintpaulia" was most enjoyed by all.

On the following day as the Show began to draw to a close a great many folk began to "Talk-it Over" and worry because they might not see each other again . . . and they began to wish that they had set up a permanent Society so that their associations would be certain of continuing. The time was almost gone -- the room was almost empty of plants when Mr. Hudson was approached and asked to call a meeting of the temporary organization set up the evening before. Mr. Hudson promptly responded and with but a small number present the African Violet Society of America was brought into being. Present were Mrs. F. L. Beers, College Park, Georgia; Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Des Moines, Iowa; Nelson Crist, Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, C. J. Hudson, Jr., Boyce M. Edens, Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. J. W.

The judges of the "first show" in action.

Front row left to right, Mrs. J. W. Freed, Feasterville, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, Tennessee; Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Des Moines Iowa; Boyce M. Edens, Atlanta, Georgia.

Second row left to right, Miss Fay Wilcox and Mel Greggs of New Bedford, Pennsylvania; Carl E. Good, Atlanta, Georgia; Charles J. Hudson, Jr., Atlanta, Georgia.





In response to a small notice about the formation of the African Violet Society of America in the February, 1947, Better Homes and Gardens, Alma Wright as secretary received thousands of letters from African violet people who wished to join the Society.

Left to right, Alma Wright, Mary Parker.

Freed, Feasterville, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, Tennessee; Mrs. Pat Crowe, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Miss Fay Wilcox and Mel Greggs of New Bedford, Pennsylvania. With the exception of Mr. Greggs each of those present paid the sum of \$3.00 and thus became by the payment of these membership dues, the Organizing Charter Members of the Society. Thus the Treasury of the Society was established.

Following are the officers that were elected at this meeting: Mrs. Ferne Kellar, president;

C. J. Hudson, Jr., 1st Vice-president; W. D. Holley, 2nd vice-president; Lewis Cook, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Robert Wright, recording secretary; Boyce M. Edens, treasurer.

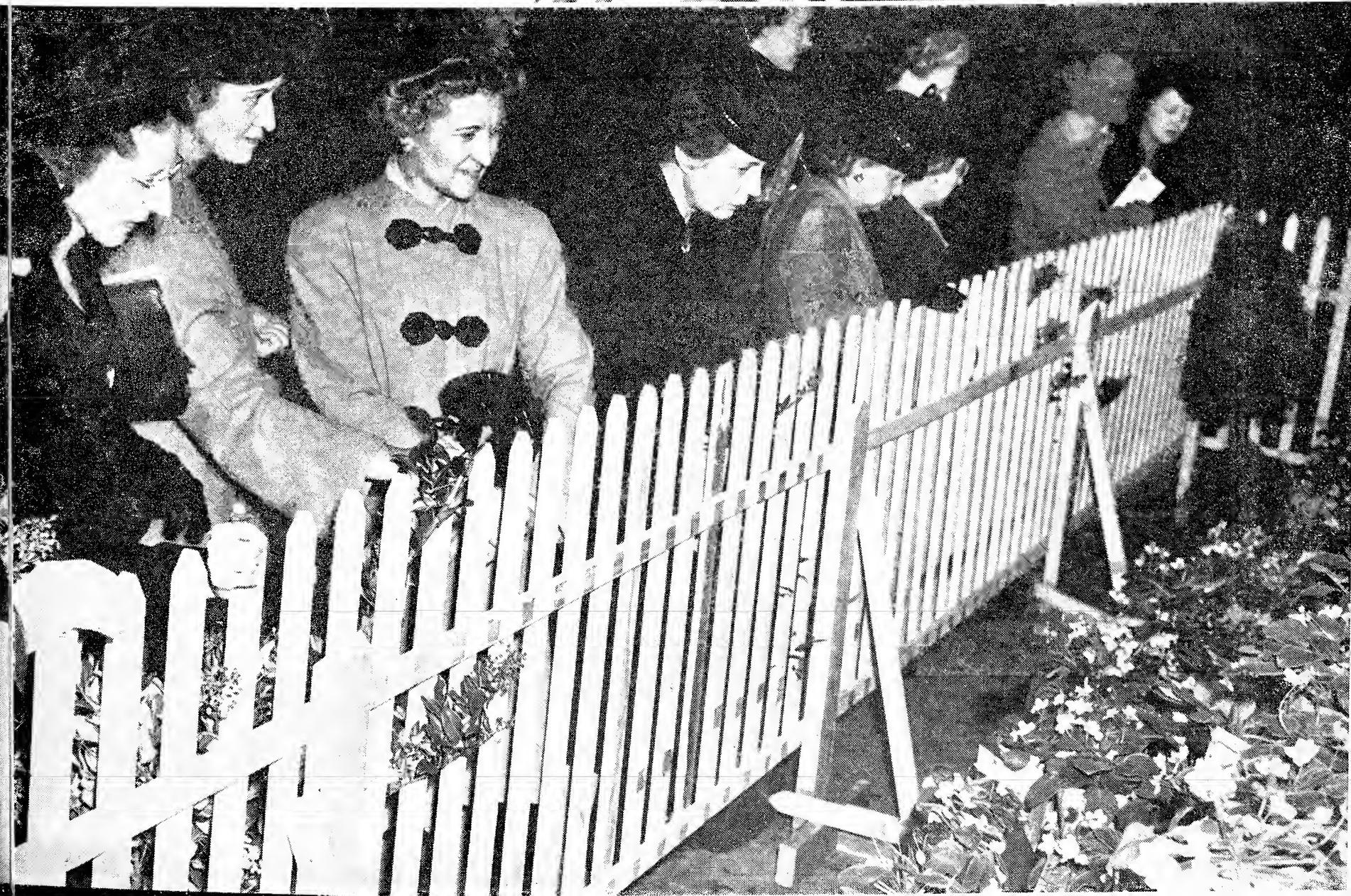
In March (1947) Mrs. Kellar, president of the newly formed Society called a meeting of the officers and a few others in Atlanta, Georgia to really launch the Society and get it under way. This meeting was held in the home of Boyce M. Edens in Atlanta, and the following people at-



An early leader in the bringing together of many of the out of town guests who made up the country wide membership of the Society was Mrs. Rhodes who is pictured with some of her beautiful plants.

The First Show November 8,
1946 . . .

At the H. G. Hastings Show
Rooms, Atlanta, Georgia, these
interested groups of African
violet people demonstrated to
flower lovers everywhere the
tremendous appeal of the Saint-
paulia.



tended it: Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Mrs. Robert Wright, Mrs. P. J. Crowe, Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, Nelson Crist, Boyce Edens and C. J. Hudson, Jr. Nelson Crist was authorized to draft By-Laws for the Society and to have the Society incorporated under the laws of Georgia. This was done by Mr. Crist subsequent to this meeting. A second meeting was held in the afternoon of this date to make further plans for the future of the Society. Articles of incorporation were filed by Mr. Crist in the office of the Secretary of State (Georgia) on June 30, 1947 for a thirty-five year period of time. These are the names that are in the articles of incorporation as the "petitioners" Mrs. F. L. Beers, Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, C. J. Hudson, Nelson Crist and Boyce M. Edens.

In response to publicity in various national magazines memberships began to come in at a rapid rate . . . and on July 1, 1947 Charter Memberships were closed. All memberships after this date are not considered as Charter Members . . . and all previous to July 1, 1947 are listed in the files of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. as Charter Members.

A "Bulletin" was planned and W. D. Holley was selected to be asked to edit it. When this was not possible because of the press of other work he was doing at the time Mrs. Kellar asked Alma Wright if she would undertake the issuing of the Society publication. The name African Violet Magazine was selected and with her trusty co-editor Mary (Mrs. Frank) Parker plans were made, material assembled and the Magazine was born. Only five hundred copies of Volume 1, Number 1 were printed. These were addressed by hand and carried to the postoffice in Mrs. Parker's car.

The first Annual Meeting of the Society was held in Atlanta in the Fall of 1947. Mrs. Kellar could not attend this meeting and Mr. Hudson acted as the chief official of the Society as he was 1st vice-president. A second African Violet Show was the Center-Piece of this Meeting, like the first show, and thus the precedent was established to have an Exhibit or Show as the Center-Piece, so to speak of each Annual Meeting of the Society.



GAVIOTA FERTILIZER

● ● ● FOR SAINTPAULIAS

● ● ● FOR ORCHIDS

● ● ● FOR SIMILAR
HOUSE PLANTS

AMAZING RESULTS

Gaviota Orchid Fertilizer is a water soluble balanced plant food for house plants. Gaviota has been used successfully for several years in the Hawaiian Islands, having been originated there.

1 lb. can, \$1.00

5 lb. can, \$3.75

ROD McLELLAN CO.

1450-V EL CAMINO REAL
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

— quantity discounts —



May I Quote You??

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

I personally talked with each one of these people.

Following are some quotations from visitors, exhibitors, and others who attended the National Show of African Violets during our three day Convention at the Hermitage Hotel, in Nashville, Tennessee April 30 through May 2.

"I was amazed at the beautiful violets. This is my first Convention and I'm sold on it and look forward to attending many more," — Mrs. James B. Law, of Washington, D. C.

"I think the display of Saintpaulias was marvelous" — Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, of Long Beach, California (Did you know she was on our National Board of Directors?)

"I was really thrilled about winning a Blue Ribbon on Purple Prince," — Mrs. K. B. Eberly of a Nashville, Tennessee Club.

"I was pleased, of course, but did not expect to win a Blue Ribbon on a Double Alma Wright in a National Show," Mrs. Martin Wangberg of Perry, Iowa.

"The Show as a whole is superior. It has been well planned and staged and has the very finest plants," — Mrs. Z. C. Layson, of Maysville, Kentucky.

"I was pleasantly surprised," — Mrs. Sam Nichols, of Madison, Tennessee who got the National Purple Ribbon Award for second best collection of three registered named varieties. Mrs. Nichols continues . . . "I have built a new greenhouse and moved in about ten months ago . . . I have been using fluorescent lights about three months and like them."

"I thought it was so marvelous and was so excited I did not sleep a wink last night. I won the National Award of Merit on my Sailor Girl seedling that I rooted myself -- in other words it was my baby. I also won Honorable Mention on Bronze Bi-Color and won fourteen ribbons in

all -- I was runner-up to sweepstakes," — Mrs. C. W. Midgett of Joelton, Tennessee.

"I was delighted about receiving so many fine ribbons. I only grow African violets for pleasure. I use fluorescent lights too," — Mrs. L. J. Gross, of Old Hickory, Tennessee.

"I have never missed a National Convention and believe this is the finest of them all," Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, of Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. A. D. Dates of East St. Louis, said "I think the show is magnificent. The arrangement of center tiered shelves for amateur specimen plants is good."

"It's the largest show I have ever seen -- it's lovely," — Mary Meeds, of Youngstown, Ohio.

"I was thrilled, of course, I knew I had some very choice plants but after 26 hours on the road I did not hold very much hope for top awards. I think the plants this year are larger and lovelier than in Chicago. The culture of the plants has been greatly improved," — Mrs. Delphine Hotchkiss, of Peoria, Illinois.

"It is through the full cooperation of all Chairmen that the Convention has been the success that it is," — Mrs. W. C. Dalton, Convention Chairman. Mrs. Dalton tells me also that thirty-three states were represented as well as the District of Columbia, Canada, and Cuba.

"This is the best show yet," — Mrs. Pat Crowe.

I too am sold on the idea of never missing another National Meeting. In interviewing these people all were so enthusiastic about the fine show and consensus of opinion proves to me that it was the finest ever held.

As I was leaving the National Show room I kept humming to myself the old and familiar song "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet me at the Show . . . and then I continued on singing (to myself) Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, in 1954.

History of *Saintpaulia*

Evan Roberts, Mich.

THIS IS THE SECOND OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES CONCERNING THE HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET.

PART II THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET GROWER

Although Hermann Wendland, who first described the African violet in the German magazine, *Gartenflora*, June 1, 1893, mentioned that Walter von Saint Paul gathered African violet plants in the summer of 1892 and sent them to his father Ulrich in Fischbach, Silesia, Germany, it is doubtful if live plants were actually sent. The most logical way of sending material from the coast of East Africa in 1892 was probably by steamship north along the coast of East Africa, then west into the Gulf of Aden and north-west in the Red Sea, through the Suez Canal, across the Mediterranean Sea to the port of Trieste, Italy, and from there via railroad across Europe to Silesia, Germany. The African violet plants would have been in transit for about 25 days. Unless they were given care throughout such a voyage and journey, it is doubtful if live plants could have survived. It is most likely that mature plants with seed pods (capsules) were sent as dried herbarium specimens. Some of the seed may have been put in a container and enclosed within the same shipment. Ed Pynaert in an article about the African violet in *Revue de l' Horticulture et Etrangere*, 1894, page 109, mentions that *Saintpaulia* plants shown at an exposition in Gent by Mr. Wendland came from seed sent by the son Walter to his father Ulrich.

Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire who received the African violet plants from his son Walter in 1892 was greatly interested in plants of all kinds and especially trees.

Ulrich was born in Berlin. He entered the navy, Prussian at that time, and in the course of 25 years, during which he served as an active naval officer, made very important trips on both German and English ships. He became familiar with the tropics, especially in Africa, Brazil, and on the west coast of America where he was stationed for quite some time. He observed and enjoyed the magnificent beauty of nature during several trips to the Andes for which Alexander

von Humboldt, a friend of his family, had aroused enthusiasm in him.

Frequent visits to England and France got him acquainted with a great number of beautiful country estates. When he later retired from the navy, he found a home of his own in the Riesengebirge mountains. Here he carried out the knowledge of landscaping and the proper use of plants in landscaping which he had observed from his travels. The constant care of his estate became a factor for the foundation of his dendrological studies. He became president of the German Dendrological Society and as such gave lectures about the beautification of the forest; gave an abundance of suggestions for the future activities of the society; determined the meeting places for many years in advance; and, continually stimulated interest for the continuation and activity of the society.

Although he favored trees, his interest of plants was wide-spread. He is the author of numerous articles on trees, shrubs, vegetables, and flowers. For a time Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire preferred the orchids. He had over 300 kinds. After he had been elected president of the Deutschen Dendrologischen Gesellschaft (D. D. G.), he turned almost exclusively to native hardy trees and shrubs.

In Mollers *Gartner Zeitung*, bd. 17, 1902, page 540, there is an interesting reference to his character. Translated it means, "As president of the German Conifer Commission, Saint Paul directed its work during the entire duration of its existence. Unfortunately, we have too few men of his kind. A man of the world in the noblest sense of the word, he was always friendly and loyal. He knew how to arouse the interest of the members in the work of their society and to obtain their cooperation. He was a most diligent and indefatigable worker."

In addition to the letter that Ulrich wrote to Sir Joseph Hooker, (see part 1 of the *History of Saintpaulia*) his direct views are expressed in a letter to the editor of *The Garden* in the March 16, 1895 issue on page 181 as follows: "Allow me to correct a slight error on page 133 of *The Garden* about *Saintpaulia ionantha*. This lovely plant, which has been discovered and introduced to Europe by my son never has flowers of 3 inches diameter, the coloured plate showing the flowers are about their natural size. It grows best in a rich open compost in shady warm quarters and likes much moisture at the roots. The young offsets which the plant makes plentiful at the collar give the best plants if potted separately in proper time."

It is apparent that Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire thought highly of the African violet plants he had grown from seed sent by his son. Apparently he was greatly interested in the commercial possibilities of this plant as well as in its beauty. He gave specimens to a well-known botanist, Mr. Hermann Wendland of Herrenhausen perhaps



Ulrich Maximilian Le Tanneux Von Saint Paul-Illaire, first to receive *Saintpaulia ionantha* from East Africa.

Born: April 14, 1833 -- Died: October 21, 1902

with two ideas in mind. The first was to identify and name the plants, the second was to ask Mr. Wendland to make arrangements for its commercial distribution. Truly, Mr. Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire, the first to grow African violets, was a man of extraordinary vision.

Editors note: The next issue of the African Violet Magazine will be concerned with what happened to these plants after Mr. Wendland received them. Watch for Part III.

MINERAL DEFICIENCY SYMPTOMS IN SAINTPAULIAS

Renee B. Choitz

University of Denver

During 1952 tests were conducted to determine how certain mineral deficiencies affect the African violet. These tests were conducted by the writer with the aid of the African Violet Society and the University of Denver Graduate Research Fund. The value of such a study would be to eliminate as much as possible the guesswork in analyzing symptoms and adding nutrients to the soil in which a *Saintpaulia ionantha* plant is grown.

The mineral elements which are most frequently deficient in certain soils, or which become deficient in the limited supply available to potted plants are the following: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron and sulfur. The deficiency of these elements, then, became the basis for this study.

Iron was considered as a possible deficient mineral even though only a small amount is needed in the soil. Because *Saintpaulias* are almost always grown in media which are neutral to slightly acid in reaction, the iron which is in most soils is usually available to the plant.

For successful growth plants must have proper care and this includes proper soil conditioning. Soil conditioning may be divided into two classifications, physical and chemical. It is with this latter aspect alone that this study was concerned.

Species differ in their soil requirements, but all require a variety of minerals in differing amounts. Usually these minerals are supplied by the soil in which the plants are grown and become available for absorption by the plant after becoming dissolved in the soil moisture. As the potted plant grows, increases in size, produces flowers, and perhaps seeds, it frequently depletes the soil of minerals or reduces the supply below a suitable proportion for one or more elements.

To be able to understand the mineral deficiency symptoms, one must first understand the roles played by the soil elements in the growth of plants. Nitrogen, long known to be one of the key elements in protein synthesis, is responsible for promoting vigorous growth of all parts of the plant. It is also essential as a raw material in developing green color (Chlorophyll). Phosphorus has been found to serve a number of purposes in the physiology of plants. It is con-

cerned with carbohydrate manufacture, flowering, and the production of seeds and fruit. What is known about the function of potassium in plants is little. Possibly it acts as a catalyst, but in other plants it has been found to be necessary for growth. Calcium has been assumed to have numerous functions in plants. If this is true, then a deficiency of it should have an effect on the plant and the result should be noticeable through symptoms. Iron has been found to be in some way essential for the development of chlorophyll even though it is not a part of that green chemical. It is known that magnesium is a constituent of chlorophyll. Sulfur is known to be a needed constituent in the formation of certain proteins.

The general purposes of the experiment was to grow and observe two varieties of *Saintpaulia ionantha* under the control-test method. Two varieties were chosen in order to observe symptoms upon a wide difference in flower color and foliage type. These two varieties were the purple-flowered, dark-leaved Mentor Boy and the pink-flowered, light-green leaved Pink Beauty. All plants were donated by Mr. William Gunnish of the Park Floral Company, Englewood, Colorado, and were carefully selected for uniformity of variety and vigor. Especial note was taken to observe if any of the deficiencies caused symptoms of brittleness and/or droop to foliage.

Since insuring adequate controls is one of the most important problems faced in experimental

Figure 1

Photograph of Pink Lady plants at completion of experiment.

Figure 2

Photograph of Mentor Boy plants at completion of experiment.

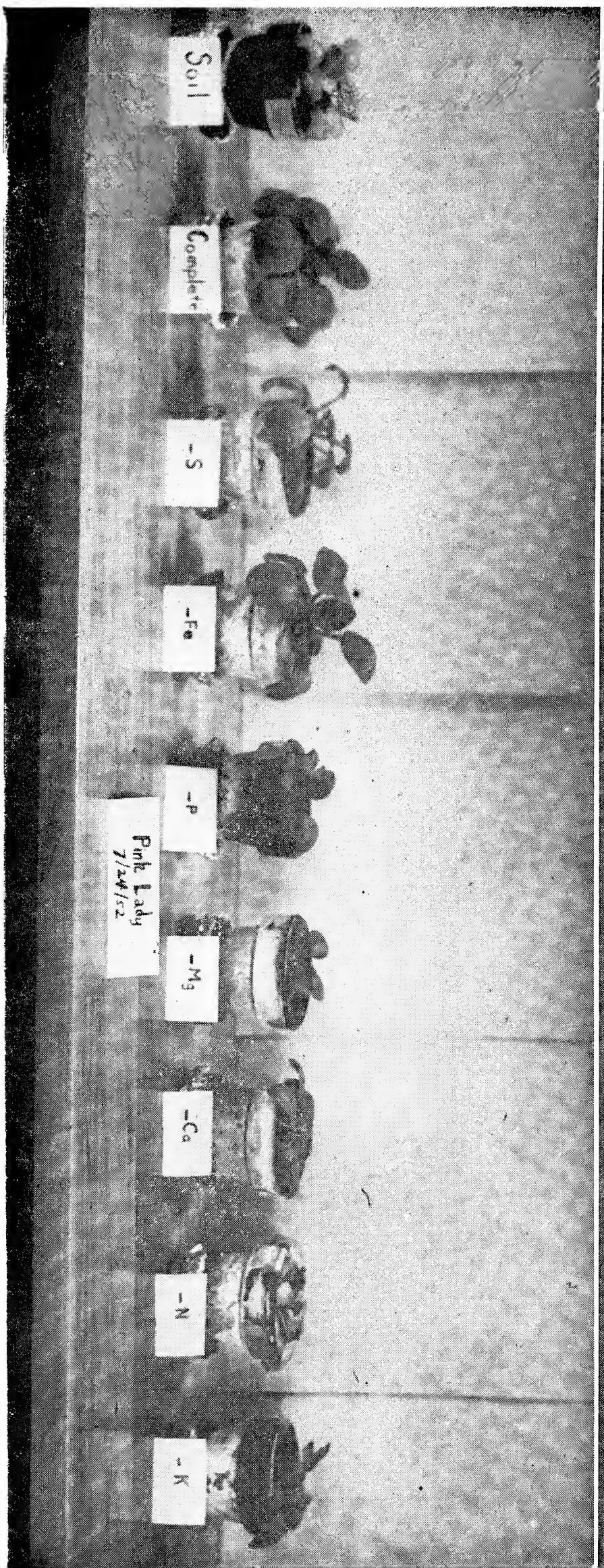


Figure 1

Figure 2

procedure, every attempt was made to delimit and control extraneous influences which might have affected the dependent variables.

The potting medium for all plants except for one series described below, was Cherry Creek (Colorado) sand. This sand was thoroughly washed in tap water and then in distilled water to remove water-soluble substances. The exception, previously mentioned, was a potting mixture soil composed of two parts loam, one part sand, one part Michigan peat moss, and one part leaf mold.

Containers for these plants were all from the same stock. They consisted of three-inch unglazed pots with glazed saucers. Both saucers and pots were washed in distilled water to free them of impurities. Then the rims of the pots were dipped in melted paraffin to protect the leaves and petioles of the plants.

In order to keep a constant light intensity a rack of nine equally-spaced, sixty-watt, incandescent, daylight bulbs was placed over the plants at a height of twenty-two inches. No measurement was made of the intensity. These lights served not only for light, but helped to diminish temperature fluctuation of the laboratory air.

For control of the mineral supply the pots were supplied with a modification of the solution known to plant physiologists as Knopf's solution. First stock solutions for the nutrient solutions were made up. This was accomplished by carefully weighing the salts and dissolving them in water to make solutions of very accurate strength. Each salt solution was placed into its own flask. Then when a nutrient solution was needed, the proper amount of appropriate stock solutions were mixed with enough distilled water to make a nutrient solution of just the right proportions, except where an element was purposely omitted by substitution.

Two factors which might have influenced the dependent variables and were not controlled were temperature and humidity. Temperature was regulated only to prevent extremely low temperatures. The average weekly reading varied between 69.8° F. and 78.7° F. The humidity was not regulated, thus it varied from less than 20 per cent to 49.5 per cent relative humidity.

Since the control-test method was used, the test groups were composed as follows: The number of groups of plants was twelve; these twelve groups were composed of one control group and eleven test groups. Each group had three plants of each of the two varieties. Thus there were six plants in each group.

Each pot and saucer was marked to identify the variety, the test, and the number of the plant in the test. The plants were potted three each of the two varieties in each test. Small plants taken from "mother leaves" which had been rooted in sand, were used. Before these plants were taken from the propagating house no supple-

mental fertilizer had been given them and all appeared to be slightly chlorotic. In order to strengthen them, they were given a treatment with a solution of Ra-Pid-Gro, a "complete" commercial fertilizer on December 29, 1952, and January 5, 1953. They were potted on January 28, and 29, 1953.

The plants were watered with distilled water until February 3, 1953, at which date each group began receiving its own nutrient solution and distilled water if extra moisture was needed. The plants were placed on a table marked off into two rows of six segments, each of which was large enough to comfortably hold six of the three-inch pots. In order to balance environmental differences, if any, the groups were rotated every day in a clock-wise fashion from segment. In the center of the table, was placed a Hygro-Thermograph to record accurate readings of temperature and relative humidity over the twenty-three-week period.

As growth took place, a record of the following measurements was made: temperature, humidity, and on the twenty-fifth of each month growth rate as indicated by average number of leaves per plant, the number of leaves over two centimeters wide at the widest point and the average petiole length, and, finally, at the completion of the experiment the top-root ratio of each plant was measured by the displacement method.

Subjective evaluation was constantly made of each plant to observe any symptom of plant deficiency that occurred due to the dependent variable.

THE RESULTS MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The plants that received a complete nutrient solution grew larger and more vigorously than all others. The leaves and petioles in this group seemed the most brittle, but this may be accounted for by the fact that these plants were the largest and therefore subject to most damage in handling. One pink and one purple variety in this group bloomed.

2. The absence of nitrogen in the nutrient solution produced the following results: the first signs in Mentor Boy was the failure to develop the characteristic dark shadings in the leaves; in Pink Lady the indication of nutritional deficiency was a general chlorosis of the leaves which made the plant appear yellow-green. The leaves at first became light green at the outer edges and later these edges became white while the center remained light green. Subsequently the lower leaves became necrotic and fell off. These symptoms began at the base of the plant and progressed upward.

3. Calcium deficiency was manifested by a general chlorosis at first. Then the terminal

growth died back and new growing tips appeared farther down on the stem. As these growing points, too, died back, new growing tips appeared even lower on the stem. These, too, died and the end result was death of the plant.

4. Potassium deficiency was characterized in the earlier stages in Mentor Boy by an absence of the characteristic dark shading of the leaves. At a later date these plants appeared lighter green, had glossy leaves, the edges and tips of which turned downward to give a cupped effect to the leaf. The petioles drooped.

5. The lack of magnesium made the plants in this test appear generally chlorotic. The plants were dwarfed. Two of them had irregular necrotic areas on their leaves of a brownish color.

6. Iron deficiency symptoms were not generally noticeable except on the pink variety which appeared somewhat chlorotic. The minus iron solution tested at a pH of 4.8, and it is felt that this degree of acidity would have the effect of putting into solution some iron that may have been in the sand or pot and it would thus be available to the plant in sufficient quantities to prevent more definite symptoms appearing.

7. Sulfur deficiency symptoms in the pink variety appeared as a generally chlorotic condition and less vigorous growth than those receiving a complete solution. No flower buds appeared. The Mentor Boys did not appear to develop symptoms except in the one that developed flower buds and then the flowers blasted.

8. Phosphorus deficiency symptoms were conspicuous by the smaller size of the plant, leaves and petioles, darker green color of the leaves and in Mentor Boy, by purplish tinge on the underside of the leaf. Mentor Boy leaves were darker green than Pink Lady leaves and it was felt that the purplish color contributed to this darkness.

9. The plants that were growing in soil did not grow as rapidly as those in sand receiving a complete nutrient solution. In fact, there was a mild chlorosis evident, indicating the possible need for supplementing of the soil at regular intervals with fertilizer.

10. Plants that received no nutrient solution, only distilled water exhibited chlorosis of older leaves, a dark green color of newer leaves, and they had small leaves, and short petioles. This seems to be a combination of phosphorus and nitrogen deficiency symptoms. Three of the plants in this test received nutrient solution for one week at the beginning of this test. These plants showed the same symptoms, but averaged larger growth.

11. The plants receiving the two different types of commercial fertilizer were found to be getting an overabundance of nutrients as evidenced by the great accumulations of salts on the outsides of the pots. The plants had difficulty

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surviving in such a situation and had to be replaced often. It is believed that under the conditions of this experiment the recommended concentrations were much too high.

IN CONCLUDING THIS REPORT, A WORD OF CAUTION SHOULD BE ADDED IN APPLYING THE RESULTS. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT NOT ALL DISCOLORATIONS AND ABNORMAL OR SUBNORMAL GROWTH ARE CAUSED BY MINERAL DEFICIENCIES. EXCESSES OF MINERALS, IMPROPER TEMPERATURES, INADEQUATE AERATION, AND IMPROPER WATERING MAY BE RESPONSIBLE. THE READER WHO OBSERVES PLANTS THAT ARE OFF-COLOR OR ARE MAKING IMPROPER GROWTH SHOULD CAREFULLY CHECK OVER ALL RECENT TREATMENTS, ROOM TEMPERATURE, WATERING SCHEDULES AND SO FORTH BEFORE DECIDING AN ABNORMALITY IS CAUSED BY ONE OF THE DEFICIENCIES MENTIONED.

DEFINITIONS

SYNTHESIS:

Putting two or more things together.

PHYSIOLOGY:

The science that treats of the vital functions performed by the parts of the plant.

CATALYST:

Any substance which by virtue of its presence affects the rate of a chemical reaction.

CHLOROSIS:

A yellowish, pale green to white discoloration of normally green plant parts due to destruction of chlorophyll.

NECROTIC:

Pertaining to localized or general death of plant tissues.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

A BOOKLET FOR AMATEUR GROWERS
50¢ Postpaid — Portland Chapter

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Season's Greetings



FROM

WINDOWSILL GARDENS

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WILLIAMSVILLE, N. Y.



Seated left to right, Mrs. W. F. Moch, show chairman; Mrs. Ralph Traubel, co-convention chairman; Standing, Mrs. W. F. Anderson, staging chairman; Mrs. A. E. Zimmerman, co-convention chairman.

APRIL IN ST. LOUIS

Grace B. Wayman

Perhaps it is true -- "April in Paris" -- is an experience never to be forgotten. Start humming the melody -- "April in Paris" -- and it will haunt you for days. You are invited to share the enchantment of "April in St. Louis" when you visit the 1953 National Convention. We feel sure the melody of your memories will be a recurring refrain of pleasant experiences enjoyed in "April in St. Louis."

St. Louis welcomes you and invites you to visit Forest Park, one of the world's most famous parks, covering nearly one thousand four hundred acres, of which eighty-three acres are devoted to more than two thousand inhabitants of the world's finest Zoo. Also in this park you will

find the Jefferson Memorial, displaying the priceless gifts received by Slim Lindbergh after his famous flight to Paris, as well as many other priceless historical collections.

Also to be found in this park is St. Louis' splendid Art Museum where the quality of paintings shown will surprise those who still believe that only Paris or Rome can show great art. A short distance from the Museum you will see a remarkable cathedral of waterfalls and flowers -- a modernistic, all glass building named the "Jewel Box."

The scene of the world-famous Municipal outdoor Opera is close by, in a valley surrounded by stately trees, where night after night, through-

Don't take chances with your African Violets

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out the summer, popular musical attractions are presented to thousands of listeners. Your headquarters hotel, the "Chase," overlooks the entrance to this famous park.

St. Louis will be proud to show you internationally famous Shaw's Garden and its remarkable exhibits of rare botanical beauty, such as the Desert House where many of the exotic cacti of the American southwest are grown; the Fern House; the Italian Gardens; rock plants and collections of South African plants. Most unusual of all, however, is the greenhouse of plant curiosities, a Believe it or Not collection of oddities from all over the world.

The oldest building in St. Louis, "Old Rock House," can be found on the riverfront and nearby is the Old Cathedral, over one hundred years old. The first Mass was celebrated on this site in 1764. Old Man River rolls along serenely just beyond the famous old Court House where the stone auction block upon which slaves were sold still stands. This is the scene of the "Dred Scott" case and also marks the starting point of Daniel Boone Trail.

While in the downtown area, not far from the riverfront, you will want to visit the shopping district, and on the trip back to your hotel, you may stop at the boyhood home of Eugene Field, the childrens' poet. This home has been restored and refurnished with articles used by the noted author. Interesting, too, will be a stop at the Campbell House, a surviving mansion of the St. Louis elite of the 1850's containing authentic furnishings and actual gowns worn by Mrs. Campbell, wife of the fur trader.

As to religion and culture, St. Louis has more than one thousand churches. St. Louis Cathedral is one of the most magnificently furnished in America. For those who would appreciate contrast in architectural structures, a short walk north of headquarters hotel, the "Chase," will reward the sightseer with four different types located at Kingshighway and Washington Boulevards. The four corners show Temple Israel, Tuscan (Masonic Lodge), St. John's Methodist Episcopal and Second Baptist Church.

Our city is easy to reach by Air, River, Rail or Highway and we like to think you will find it not so easy to leave. St. Louis welcomes you -- St. Louis awaits you -- St. Louis invites you to spend at least part of "April in St. Louis."

THE END

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LIGHT IS THE ALL IMPORTANT FACTOR WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS

Irene Pendleton, Kansas City, Mo.

In success with African violets, soil is not nearly so important as many people believe, as long as it is a loose, porous soil with plenty of humus in the form of leaf mold or peat moss, with some sand.

It is almost impossible to give an exact formula, as all soils differ. With each change of soil I vary my formula, but a basic one to follow would be two parts good soil one part leaf mold, one part peat moss, one part decomposed cow manure, one part sand—and one level teaspoon of bonemeal to a 3-inch pot.

Sift this, then sterilize it by baking in your oven. The soil in the center of the pan must reach 180 degrees. Maintain that temperature for one-half hour. Soil bacteria, which has been killed in the sterilization, readily builds back in the soil after a few days—and then it may be used.

I sterilize all pots by boiling them one hour. I believe in the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

When Blooming Lags

Light exposure is probably the most important phase in the life of an African violet. If a plant is healthy (has luxuriant growth) but does not bloom, there is only one reason for it, believe it or not: It is not receiving enough light.

A hot sun will burn the leaves, but the cooler, early morning sun from an east window is fine. North, east, south or west exposures may be used as long as there is plenty of light.

The plant soon will tell you, by not blooming, if it is not receiving enough light. (I refer only to a healthy plant.)

Fluorescent light is a great help where more light is needed. It furnishes constant light without hurt or worry of sunburn. It is not better than daylight. Its main advantage is added light where more is needed.

I prefer a combination of daylight and fluorescent light in comparison, say, with fluorescent light in an otherwise dark basement. Even so it is amazing how beautiful they grow and bloom without benefit of daylight.

I hang the lights at different heights, measuring from the table to the light tubes. For the larger plants the distance is twenty-five inches—and as low as fifteen inches for small plants. I run the lights from twelve to fourteen hours daily, allowing the plants to rest at night.

Food in Solution.

A sick plant cannot assimilate food. Only a healthy plant should be fertilized; then only once a month in the winter. Any well balanced food is adequate. Hyponex, one-fourth teaspoon to one quart of warm water, is more or less standard. Vigoro, one level teaspoon to one quart of warm water, will do the job just as well. Apply it in the same manner as you do when watering the violets.

In the summer months let the plants rest as much as possible. After all, have a heart and don't work the poor things to death.

Grown properly, they will be in constant bloom from early autumn until early summer. What other house plant can boast such a performance?

If they should try to live up to their good reputation in hot weather, relieve them of their bud stems. Stop all fertilization and keep them on the dry side until cool weather comes again.

For their pleasure place them either at an open north window or on a screened-in porch. Too close an atmosphere in hot weather causes them to collapse.

THE END

PROTECTION STRIP

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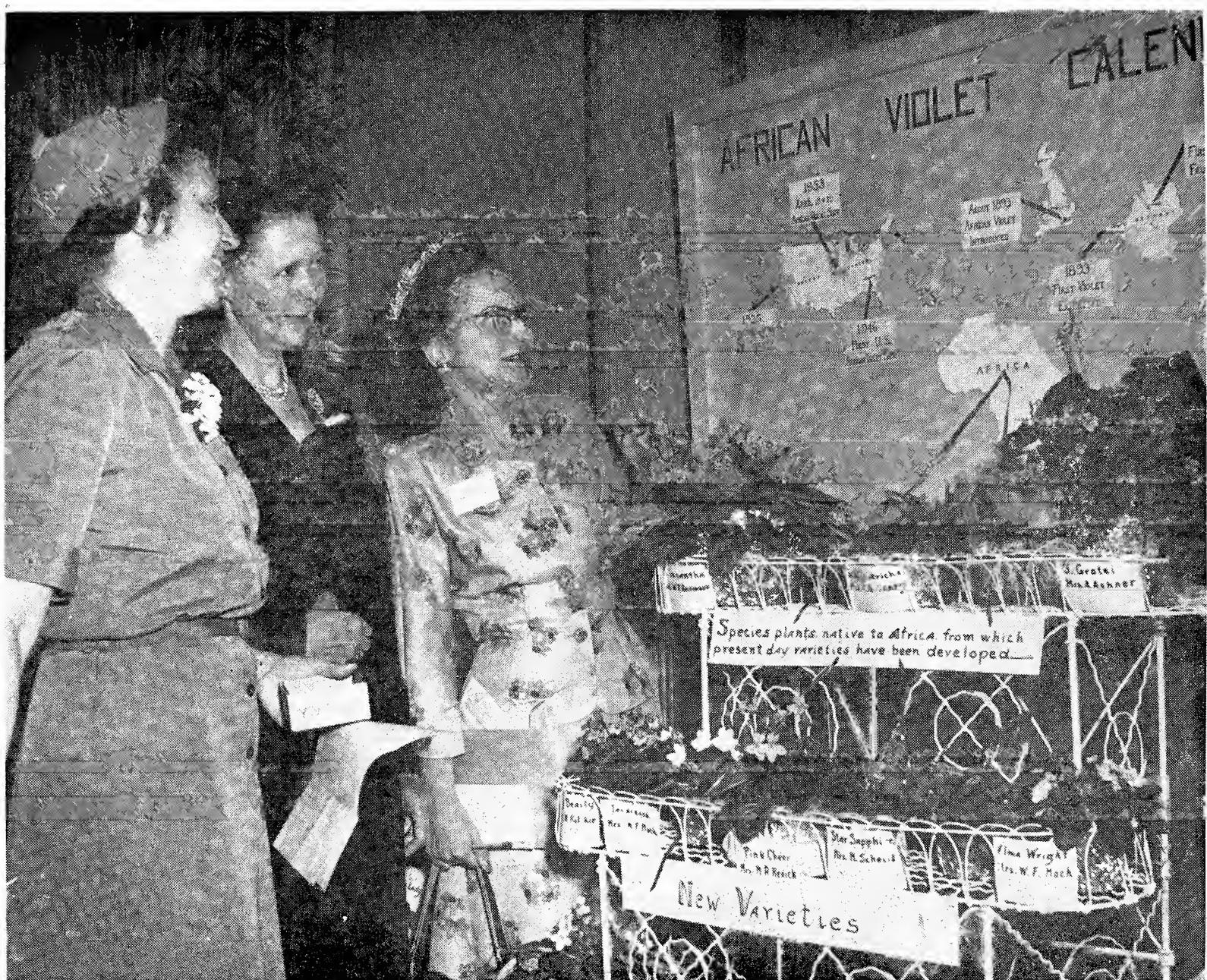
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St. Louis Show theme "African Violet Calendar" is admired.

SHOW ☙ NEWS and VIEWS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY SOCIETY

Violet Lane was the theme of the second African violet show presented by the Milwaukee County African Violet Society on Saturday and Sunday May 9 and 10 at the Wauwatosa Recreational Building.

After the experience of the crowded conditions of last year's show, the general chairman, Mrs. Trueman Landgraf and the staging chairman, Mrs. R. G. Birkholz, realized that a larger hall would be necessary so they rented the Recreational Building which was ideal for size and space.

Many of the several thousand spectators commented favorably on the spaciousness of the exhibit room and the fact that it was easy to circulate around and they could take their time and study and get a really good look at the plants.

At the beginning of each of the long double "Violet Lanes" were small silver poplar trees growing in old-fashioned butter churns with hundreds of artificial African violet bouquets interspersed in the branches.



Left to right, Mrs. Lattropp, Mrs. Birkholz and Mrs. Landgraf.

SHOW SCHEDULE

"APRIL IN ST. LOUIS"

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STAGED BY — ST. LOUIS AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS

CHASE HOTEL — ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI — APRIL 22, 23, 1954.

AMATEUR DIVISION

SECTION I Specimen plants (classes 1 through 11 must be single crowned named African violets)

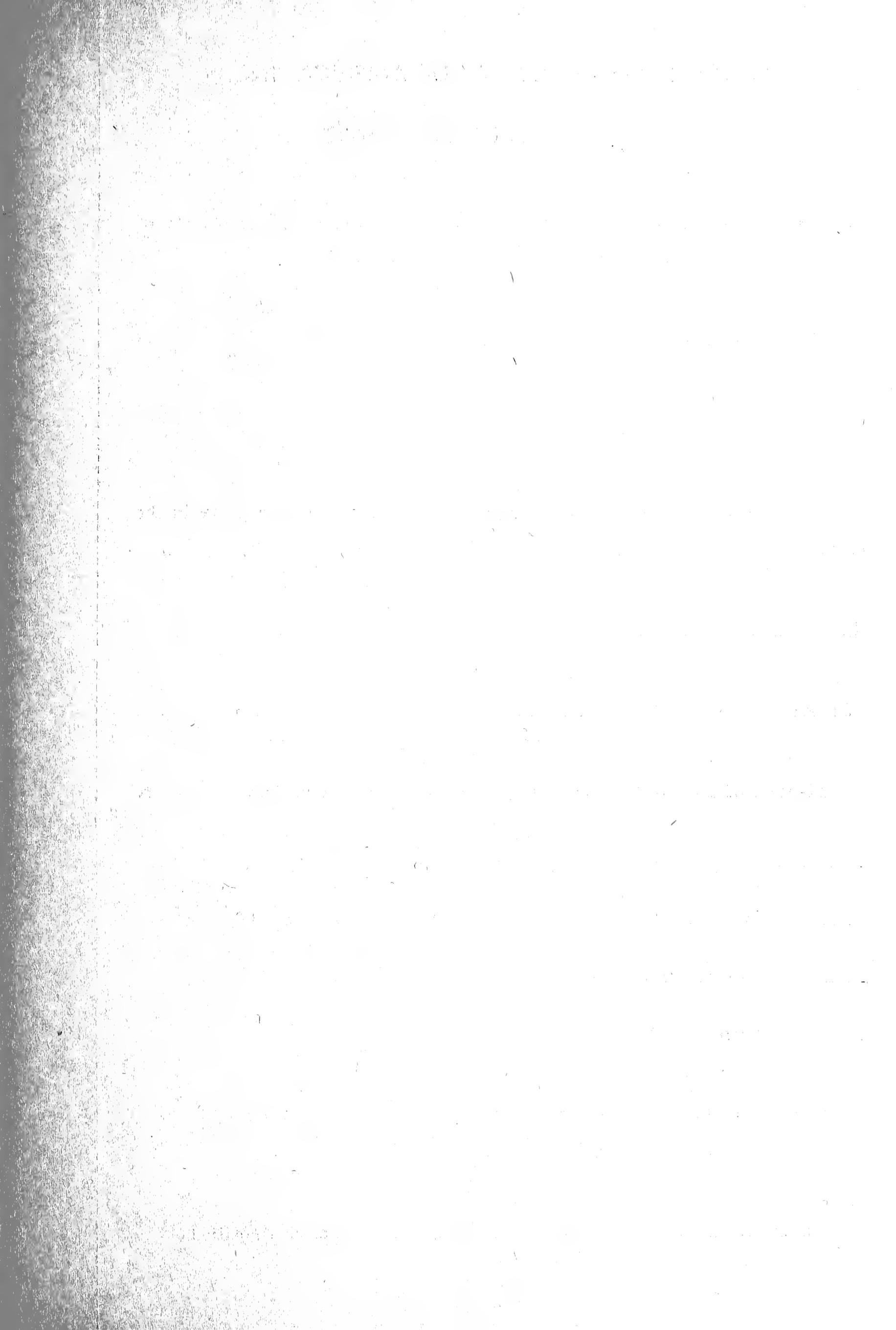
- | | |
|---------|---|
| CLASS 1 | Dark Blues or Purples |
| 2 | Medium Blues |
| 3 | Light Blues |
| 4 | Reds to Violets |
| 5 | Lavenders and Orchids |
| 6 | Bi-Colors (such as Bi-Color, Violet Beauty) |
| 7 | Two Tones (variegated, such as Painted Girl, Geneva, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, etc.) |
| 8 | Pinks |
| 9 | Whites |
| 10 | Duponts, Amazons and Supremes |
| 11 | Doubles |
| 12 | Novelties (albinos, variegated foliages, miniatures, etc.) |
| 13 | Specimen Seedlings (never exhibited before at a National Convention Show) |
| 14 | Collection of 3 registered different named varieties (single crown plants.) See Rule 11 |
| 15 | Specimen plant African violet species, (such as S. grotei, S. tongwensis, etc.) |
| 16 | Specimen plant Gesneriaceae family. (Achimenes, Episcias, Gloxinias, etc.) |

SECTION II Arrangements

- | | |
|----------|--|
| CLASS 17 | Plants exhibited in unusual containers, (such as driftwood, bubble bowls, antiques, brass, pottery, etc.) |
| 18 | Artistic arrangements of a collection of 3 -- 12 plants |
| 19 | Arrangements (container 3 -- 6 inches in width or height, cut flowers and any foliage permitted -- African violets must predominate) |
| 20 | Violets in combination with other plants |
| 21 | Arrangement suggesting theme of the show -- "April in St. Louis" |

SECTION III Educational (by invitation)

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| CLASS 22 | Plant propagation |
| 23 | Year Books (See Rule 12) |



AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All requests for hotel accommodations for the African Violet Society of America's Annual Meeting should be made to the Chase Hotel.

CHASE HOTEL

212 N. KINGSHIGHWAY

ST. LOUIS 8, MISSOURI

Please reserve the following hotel accommodations for my party in the name of

Name _____

Address _____

Please indicate the number and type of room requested. Guest rates are

_____ Single room \$7.00 \$8.00 \$9.00 \$10.00

_____ Twin-Bed Room \$9.00 \$10.00 \$11.00 \$12.00

_____ 2 Room Suite \$18.00 and up

_____ 3 Room Suite \$32.00 and up

The Chase Hotel cannot guarantee any specific rate, but will attempt to assign accommodations requested.

Reservations will be held until 6:00 P. M. unless otherwise notified.

The violets were exhibited on open tiered light wood tables giving an airy and spring like atmosphere to the large hall. As the visitors walked down the "Lanes" they viewed the violets grouped according to colors and special classes of novelties, arrangements, screens, shadow boxes and table arrangements.

At the front of the hall was the special awards table with the special prize winners on it. At the end of the hall were two very attractive scenes; one of violets growing in their natural habitat -- an outdoor setting with the plants growing among rocks and niches in the moss. The other was a bower of greens with a waterfall.

In the center of the hall were two tables, one filled with girl violets and one with seedlings, and an attractive resting place for the visitors, several garden chairs with a large attractive umbrella above them.

As the people left the exhibit hall, they passed the information booth where hostesses answered their questions and memberships were taken for the National African Violet Society and the Milwaukee County African Violet Society.

Then they came to the room where plants and supplies were sold -- one of the most popular and lucrative features of the show.

The President's Award for the most points and the Sweepstakes Award for the most ribbons went to Mrs. Chris Bouvy who received twenty ribbons for a total of one thousand six hundred eighty-one points. Mrs. Elizabeth Kuczor had the largest number of entries. Mrs. R. G. Birkholz had the most arrangements in the show. The youngest blooming plant was shown by Mr. G. A. Barrer. The members selling the most tickets were Mrs. A. Nibilo and Mrs. John Ford.

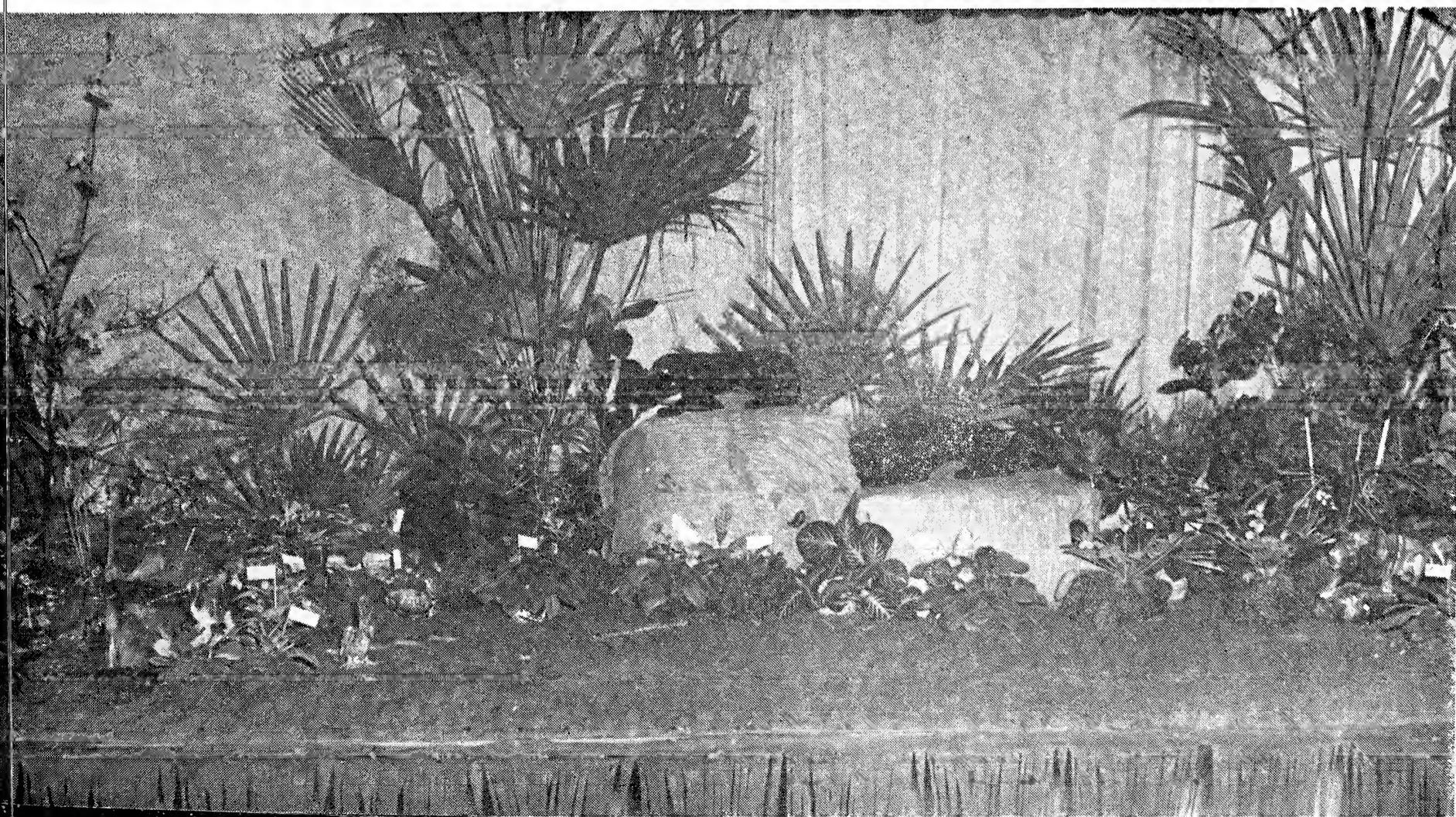
A special display table at Northern Hills Society Show.

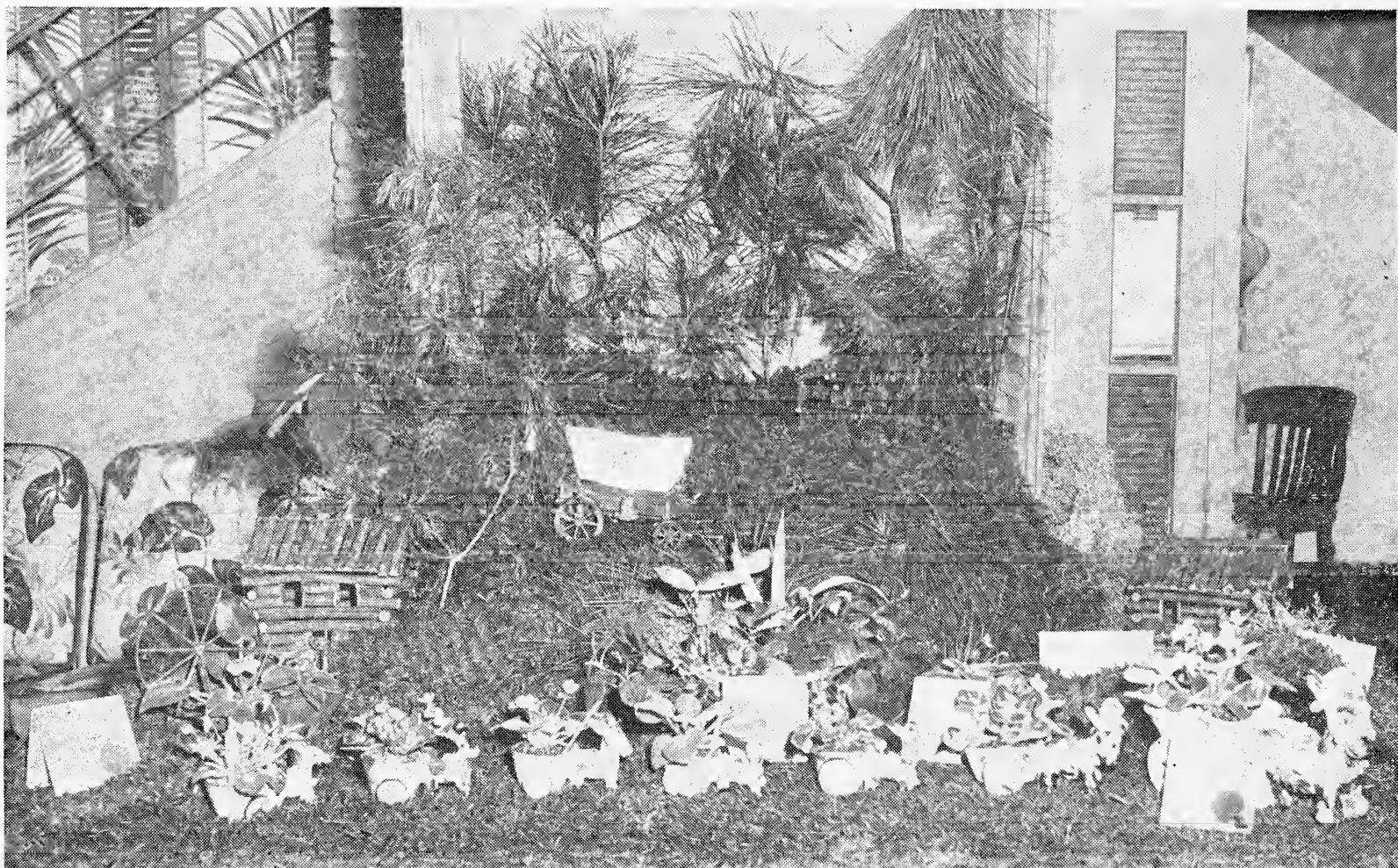


At the Cedar Valley Show -- Mrs. Sophie Gordon stands beside a table of large plants.

Special awards and ribbons were distributed to the winners in their various classes. Special award ribbons, given for outstanding blue ribbon award plants or arrangements were received by Mrs. Gustave Gustafson, (three) Mrs. Theodore Rosenak, Mrs. Chris Bouvy, Mrs. George Truran, Mrs. Laurence Schmitt, Mrs. R. G. Birkholz and Mrs. Arthur Himes.

Our president, Mrs. Marvin Lutropp, was very happy to welcome Mrs. E. G. Magill, president-elect of the National African Violet Society to our show and to proudly escort her on a tour of the exhibits.





The Pioneer African Violet Show, Norfolk, Virginia. Shown above is a display "Mule Train of Violets" grown and arranged by Mrs. Helen Morgan.

TACOMA SHOW

Enthusiasm for African violets has been growing in Tacoma and vicinity through the efforts of the Tahoma African Violet Society. (Tahoma is the old Indian name for our Mt. Rainier.) Now only in its second year, the club has staged such a successful exhibit of beautiful plants that the membership is already planning a larger affair for next spring.

Without doubt the finest thing about our show was the marvelous cooperation of the members. We all turned in with a will and were surprised that a group of strangers (1952) could form such a well-knit team (1953).

The show was directed by Mrs. Maurice Owens, president; Mrs. Wm. Sherman, show-chairman; and Mrs. Melville Hitchcock, staging-chairman. Space for the exhibit was donated by Hitchcock's Radio and TV Store. A large canvas banner for street display was stitched and painted by another member, Mrs. Seth Ellison. Miss Alta West was in charge of the guest books. Mrs. Ruth Carr checked plant entries. All members helped with arrangements and took turns at being on duty at the show. Our secretary-treasurer, Mrs. D. Woodham Richards, reported that because of so many donations of time and materials, the club expenses for the two-day show were only \$22.31.

Our African Violet Exhibit was open to the public May 16 and May 17. Admission was free. All Tacoma growers, amateur and commercial, were invited to display plants on a non-competitive basis. (As yet the Northwest had no readily available judges.) Besides beautiful specimen plants there was an educational table of leaf-cuttings and seedlings.

Guests came through in a steady stream, some visitors coming from Seattle. The registration books showed almost one thousand names. We received wonderful comments from people who had attended exhibits in several Pacific Coast cities. We all feel that the time and energy spent on the show was well repaid.

The Tahoma African Violet Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the homes of the members. Our program chairman, Mrs. Georgia Wilson, has done outstanding work in arranging educational and entertaining meetings. Every member participates by taking part in round-table discussions or by reading a paper on some phase of African violet culture. Our vice-president, Mrs. Andy Zelenak, already has compiled an interesting yearbook.

For such a young club we think we have accomplished a great deal, and we are anticipating a very bright future,

FIRST MEMORIAL DAY THEME OF CINCINNATI SHOW

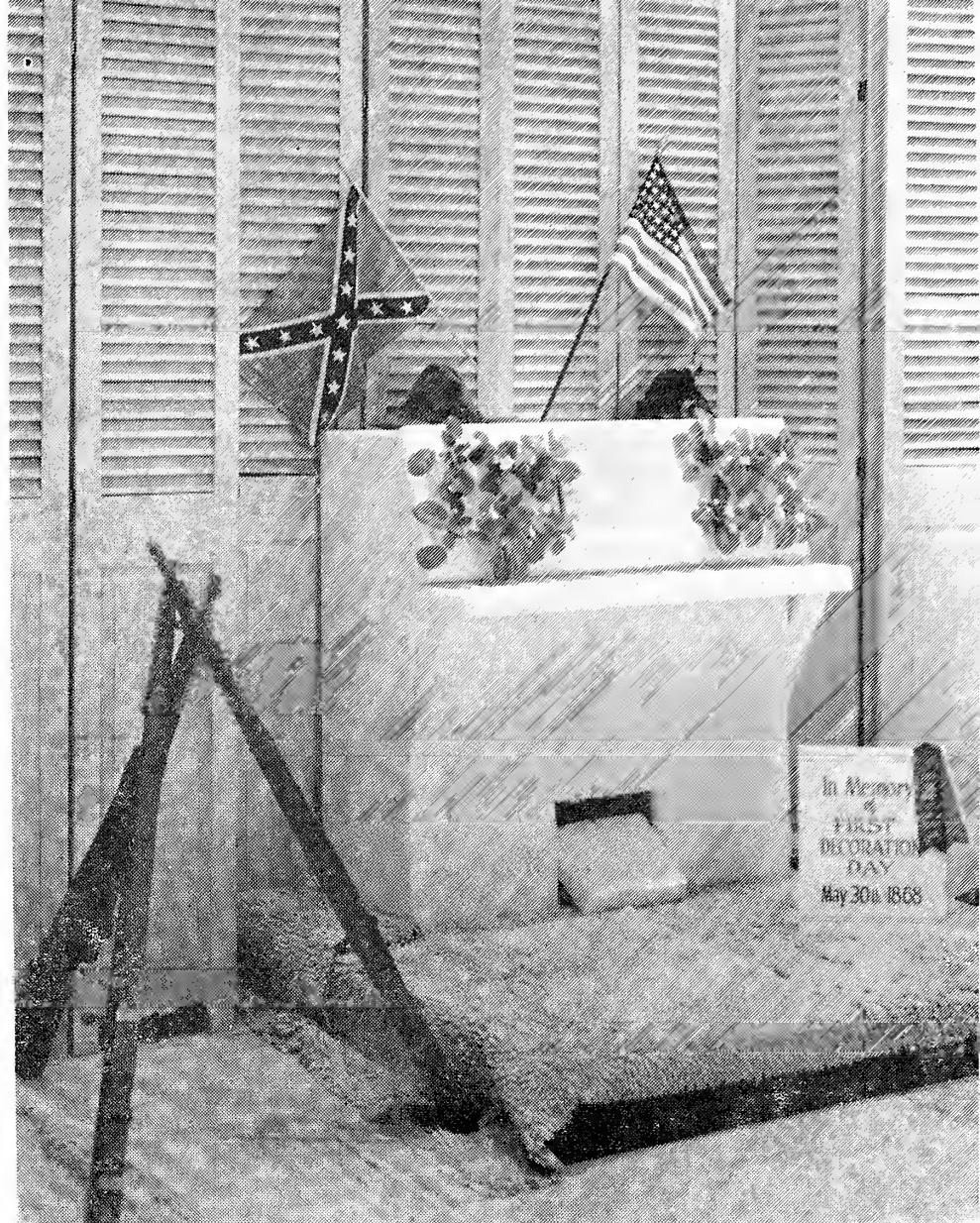
The Cincinnati African Violet Club built its fourth annual show around the Memorial Day theme this year in keeping with the date, May 27 through May 29. This idea was carried out in the white plastic foam organ, decorated with twelve Snow Prince violets, crossed flags of the Confederacy and the Union, southern and northern campaign hats which had been worn by ancestors of club members, and stacked army rifles. A record player was used behind the simulated organ to play appropriate military marches. This display was planned and created by Mrs. John Landaker, president, and Mrs. A. B. Cooper, vice-president. The show was held in the foyer of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company.

The outstanding feature of the 1953 Show from the viewpoint of the general public was the increased number of artistic and unique arrangements. These ranged from plantings in shadow boxes, tea pots, lazy susans, breakfast trays, driftwood to a miniature antique washing machine. It has not been general practice to use potted violet plants in arrangements in this locality and the public was surprised at the great number of suggestions which were presented by the club members.

Confirmed violet growers found their chief interest in the many new varieties shown. Three tables of new varieties were exhibited by Mrs. John Landaker.

The Clinic conducted by Mrs. Albert Lewis, an annual feature, attracted a steady flow of viewers seeking information on violets from seed pods to potted plants. Included in the presentation were raising violets from seed, from cuttings, separating, potting and surgery.

The crowds were enthusiastic about the display of Mr. Henry Peterson, Cincinnati's largest



Stars and Stripes and Confederate Battle Flag wave over First Memorial Day (May 30, 1868) Theme of Cincinnati Show.

commercial grower. This display illustrated with ribboned maps, violets and related plants, the history of the African violet from its discovery to its present popularity.

The gold ribbon was won by Mrs. A. B. Cooper. Tricolor ribbons were awarded to Mrs. Lawrence Marhoefer for a pot of multi-colored seedlings and to Mrs. Edward Lotz for a Chard violet.

Center section of the Cincinnati Show.



"Origin Display" -- A non-competitive exhibit arranged by Mrs. Roy H. Olson and Prof. Evan P. Roberts of Michigan State College horticulture department and Research Editor for the African Violet Magazine. Origin of the seven previously described specie plants was traced to a sectional map of Africa. At the right rear is the original *S. grotei* to enter the United States in 1947. Its ten-inch pot sets in a tray of damp sphagnum moss and wherever the stem dips to the moss, it has taken root.



"SYMPHONY IN VIOLETS"

The appointed May 22nd dawned misty on the busy little group that had planned, since the middle of January, their first African Violet Show. Between intermittent morning showers everyone was busy putting together what they hoped would be Lansing's first successful African Violet Show.

"Symphony in Violets" opened graciously to an appreciative crowd that had been gathering long before show time. They paraded slowly by the long tables where some three hundred plants were on display. Soft music drifted through the Women's Clubhouse inviting the guests to admire unhurriedly the luscious blooms that time and toil had produced.

Imaginations went wild for the first big show sponsored by the Double "10" African Violet Club and the Lansing Saintpaulianas in which the public was invited to participate. Some entries were single plants. Others were part of elaborate displays. All were beautiful. From thirty-eight cities, one thousand attended this afternoon and evening event.

With extreme care, exhibitors fashioned corsages from fragile blossoms. For one display violets were secured to branches to form a miniature African violet tree. A woodland scene complete with a miniature lake was spot lighted. There was a violet menagerie in which small plants were placed in animal planters circling a miniature tent. In keeping with the theme were musical notes with bluebirds chirping "Symphony in Violets." Another favorite was an exquisite wedding party in an open church banked with violets. Single blooms formed the bridal bouquets. All exhibits drew the crowd's admiration.

Of special educational interest was a non-competitive exhibit arranged by Mrs. Roy H. Olson and Prof. Evan P. Roberts of Michigan State College Horticulture Department and Research Editor for the African Violet Magazine. In this display, the origin of seven of the previously described specie plants was traced to a sectional map of Africa. The display proudly presented the original *S. grotei* to enter the United States in 1947! Relative varieties running the gamut of known colors and foliage were shown by way of contrast.

One Lansing exhibitor, Mrs. George C. Greminger, captured blue ribbons in eleven of the sixteen competing classes. The sweepstake trophy was placed on her winner in the exhibit class, a tiered "new variety" wedding cake of violets and tulle. Her other winners came in the classes of medium blue, light blue, red, bi-color, two tone pink, white DuPonts and Supremes, doubles, and plants in novel containers (a silver tea pot).

Honorable mention sweepstakes winner was Mrs. Leon A. Potruff, who also won first place in seedlings class. Best of show ribbon went to Mrs. Nellie Lane of Lansing for her giant Mentor Boy entered in multiple crowns class.

Other first place winners were Mrs. William Lagios, dark blues and purples; Mrs. Earl Logue, lavenders and orchids class; and Mrs. Darrell Taylor, use of African violets in arrangements.

Prof. Roberts was judge of the show. Assisting him as clerks were Mrs. Edwin Nuoffer of Holt and Mrs. Van DeLashmutt of Holt.

Next to the "origin" display was a clever arrangement of seedlings in a doll bed, flanked by the "parent" plants which were crossed to produce them. A large stork with diapered new arrivals was present.

Violet Cake -- Mrs. Leon A. Pottruff, show chairman, admires the sweepstake cup and prize wedding cake display of Mrs. George C. Greminger of Lansing, right, who won blue ribbons in 11 of the 16 competing classes.

(State Journal photo)



Seekers of the novel were in for a pleasant surprise at the show. At two points of an Eastern Star display were green and yellow violets! This was made possible by putting food coloring in the soil where white violets were growing -- However, the plants were sacrificed!

On one side of the room were club exhibits depicting different months of the year, using violet plants in the arrangements. The Double "10" Club took first place with a frosty December scene and the Lansing Saintpaulianas took second with an Easter exhibit. Third place went to the Double "10" for their March display.

Those responsible for the event's success include Mrs. Leon A. Pottruff, general chairman; Mrs. Kenneth Pitts, publicity; Mrs. William Lagios, staging; Mrs. Carleton Nicholas, entries;

Mrs. Ted Rudd, classification; Mrs. Darrell Taylor, hospitality and Mrs. Earl E. Logue, commercial exhibits.

The competence and extreme patience of our show chairman kept us working toward our goal and guided us in surmounting every obstacle. She and her staff worked as a magnificent team meeting often enough to make sure that every detail would be a success. They kept their club members constantly informed of progress, thus making everyone feel the importance of the part each had to play.

This show proved a small membership working together can stage a successful show. Many who attended expressed a desire to join an African Violet Club. It is hoped that two new clubs will be formed from those who registered in the guest book.

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

1-A mixture 300 seeds \$1.00

11-E mixture, crosses of many varieties having girl type foliage 300 seeds \$2.00

6-D mixture, good doubles crossed on good singles, produces approximately 50 per cent doubles or semi doubles 150 seeds \$2.00

8-B our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00

FRIENDLY GARDENS

NEW BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

AFRICAN VIOLETS

S. grotei (climber) and S. magungensis (creeper). Also S. tongwensis and S. orbicularis. These species ready for shipment after April 15. Healthy vigorous plants from 2-inch pots @ \$2.50 each. 50¢ extra if mailed via air.

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WETHERSFIELD CONNECTICUT

The public came from near and far to attend the second Saintpaulia exhibition held by the Central Connecticut Club, on April 22, 1953 at the Webb Barn in Wethersfield. The Webb Barn, located in the rear of historic old Webb House made a beautiful setting for the more than four hundred Saintpaulias which were exhibited by members from two o'clock until 8:00 p. m. Over eleven hundred violet enthusiasts showed an unusual interest in the eight classes and three special exhibits.

The six members of the educational committee were constantly answering questions. On display were books by Montague Free and Helen Van Pelt Wilson, magazine articles on the Gesneriaceae family, on pests and clippings of interest in growing African violets. Here too, was a bulletin displaying the enlarged photos taken from Harriet Lawton's article on pests in the National Magazine. Next was an actual display of African violets growing from seed; leaves in several different rooting mediums; a display of plants in various stages of growth from the leaf; violets growing under fluorescent lighting; violets growing in soilless culture; a display of plant foods recommended for growing African violets and finally, the library of issues of the African Violet Magazine.

The three special exhibits added color and interest to the show -- one a country kitchen showing an old sink with pump filled with African violets and other antiques typical of the three hundred year old town, including a spinning wheel, old table with an open drawer filled with Saintpaulias and topped by an old coffee mill with a beautiful plant of Blue Moon. A corner typifying the fishing life of the town was the Mainers Corner which lent itself beautifully with the nautically named plants -- Sea Girl, Norse-



Central Connecticut Show -- "The Maypole" featuring girl plants and arranged by Mrs. Jack A. Young.

man, Neptune and many others. Gold fish net, sea shells and many lovely pieces of driftwood and a large sail boat attracted the attention of many. In the center of the Barn and in front of two large doors, stood a May Pole, gaily decorated with crepe paper streamers, many shades picked up from the Saintpaulias and leading to many girl type plants in corresponding colored pots and saucers.

The winning plant, by popular vote, was Reddish Purple Double, exhibited by Mrs. Harry Oliver, New Britain, Connecticut.

In order to finance the exhibition violet plants contributed by the members were sold to the public. Plants of every size including leaves and rooted cuttings of many named varieties were sold.

Guests registered as they came in and represented sixty Connecticut cities and towns and the states of Maine, Delaware, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, New York and Massachusetts.

Radio stations and the local press gave whole hearted support and contributed much to make the show the success all who worked on the Show committee felt it was. Giving pleasure to so many was a grand reward.

J. A. PETERSON SONS

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'Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year'

You are welcome to visit our

GREENHOUSES

When in the Cincinnati Region

3132 McHenry Ave. Cincinnati 11, Ohio

Fundamentals of African Violet Culture

Helen Pochurek, Solon, Ohio

John S. Coryell, formerly an Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas was the first speaker at the 1952 CONVENTION. His subject was "Fundamentals of African Violet Culture," and some very good down to earth information was packed into his talk. So because of the value of knowing these necessary facts, I would like to have you look backward with me for a few moments as I briefly review some of the fine points of this lecture which was given at the Chicago meeting.

The basic requirements for successful African violet culture may be summed up in a few words. The problems themselves are fundamental. It is always important to remember that we should vary our growing methods to suit our individual needs. If your plants are doing well in the growing medium you are now using -- whether it be black dirt, or no dirt at all, vermiculite or other mixtures -- then stick to that. There is no set school of thought on the best medium. Just use the one which suits your plants best, for they are individuals, just like you and I, and their individual needs must be catered to. Only if the results of your growing do not meet your hopes and dreams do I suggest a change in your method of growing.

In violet culture, a point of view, patience, humility, and understanding are all that is needed. Your mistakes can be corrected with a little work and understanding. The most important requirements for proficient growth are:

Correct light

Constant temperature with very little fluctuation

Correct moisture

Good soil and nutrients.

You won't fail to have beautiful violets if you follow these simple rules.

A constant flow of light energy, either sunlight or artificial light, is needed. An east window is ideal, for it gets the good morning sunlight. Two hours of morning sun seems worth four of afternoon light. During the night the food reserves of the plant are at a low ebb; the morning sun reactivates the energy supply of the plant and acts as a "booster." A plant that gets too little light will have long petioles, but there will be probably little or no bloom, caused by weak plant cells.

A temperature of 70 degrees is about ideal. A variation of 15 degrees will probably mean trouble.

Warm water is essential in watering. It does not matter whether you water from the top or bottom. Many stick to bottom watering, but mother nature always waters from the top in the form of rain.

Organic matter in the soil is a big factor as the helpful bacteria pick up the nutrients in the soil and use them to good advantage and fertilizers will also be better utilized in a soil rich in humus. Peat moss, leaf mold, humus and manure help in this respect. Sand or gravel added to the soil helps drainage and aerates the soil. Clay soil is hard to use, yet it holds many valuable elements. Its chief drawback is that it packs too hard for fine roots to penetrate. That is where humus will help.

A good humus can be made in the following manner. It will be rich in organic material and will benefit any plant that grows in it. It is a form of compost, using nothing but leaves.

Use one bushel of leaves; add one pint of Vigoro, or any such fertilizer such as a 4-12-4 or a 5-10-5; add $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of limestone. Sprinkle the fertilizer between layers of leaves and water well. Turn from time to time. It will be ready for use when it turns black and earthy.

THE END

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The Season's Best
And success with your Flowers
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The Finest and Latest in Saintpaulias
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Dr. Charles Ackerman speaks at the Nashville Meeting.

A REPORT ON THE TALK GIVEN BY DR. CHARLES ACKERMAN, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, AT THE NASHVILLE MEETING.

NUTRIENT BALANCE

Peggy Jones, Nashville, Tenn.

When I was asked to report on Dr. Ackerman's talk, which he gave at the meeting on Friday morning, May 1st, I blythely accepted, thinking, "Well, I can at least try." At that time the term Nutrient Balance meant just about as much to me as the term Nuclear Science, which, not being a scientist, means something the other fellow did. However, after hearing Dr. Ackerman, I have a great deal better idea of what it is all about and hope that I can help my fellow violet layman to also understand, as I am quite sure that I will never again throw away a violet with the idea that it will never be anything but puny, because I know now they are just like children who are delicate, it is just a matter of finding the right nutrient element they need to bring them back to good health.

Dr. Ackerman said that the fact that the African violet has become one of the most popular house plants in the American home had induced the African Violet Society of America to initiate a series of research projects in order to determine the influence of the several environmental factors upon the growth of the African violet. These projects are concerned with insect and disease, as well as nutrition, and have been published in bulletin form. This bulletin is called "Nutrient-Element Balance: A Fundamental Concept in Plant Nutrition. A. S. H. S. Proc. 47; 239-248. 1945." It is published by C. B. Shear, H. L. Crane and A. T. Myers.

Dr. Ackerman explained that this concept endeavors to point out the functions of the twelve essential growing nutrients obtained from the soil and their effects on the development of the plant. The belief that the balance of the nutrient elements and their intensity within the plant are primary factors in controlling the growth of plants has been indicated by many research studies in plant nutrition.

Dr. Ackerman also explained that the term "Balance" has reference to the concentration of

the functional elements to each other, while "Intensity" has reference to the total equivalent concentration of all functional nutrient elements present in the leaves. Thus it follows that as any element increases or decreases from its maximum intensity, the best growth of the plant at the prevailing concentration of that particular element can occur only when the concentration of all the elements have been brought into a new balance at the new intensity level established by that element. This means, essentially, that the maximum growth will result only when the nutrients in your feedings are in balance, which may be at any intensity level; that is, when they are heavily fertilized or even in need of another feeding, if the elements required are in balance your plant will do better than if over-fed on one element, yet short on another.

Dr Ackerman said a deficiency symptom in a plant may be due to an insufficient amount of a particular element within the plant. The cause of a deficiency, it has been shown in several nutritional studies, might be due to a relative excess of one or several other elements. Iron deficiency in plants is an example of such a condition of unbalance at a given nutritional level. It is possible that plants may grow at a slow rate because of a lack of nutritional balance, and yet not show any visible symptoms of deficiency.

It was brought out that a Professor Wildon at Michigan State has obtained data, which has not as yet been published, which tends to show that growth of African violets in alkaline soil mixtures proceeded at a slow rate due to insufficient iron, yet iron deficiency symptoms were not apparent. However, in test plants which were grown in a similar soil mixture containing an insoluble iron-bearing frit, the growth of the plants proceeded at a rapid rate with a leaf and flower development obviously better than that of the control plants.

Dr. Ackerman told of a Mr. Rawson, a graduate student at Michigan State, who has obtained data from a nutrition study on African violets, which seems to show that a certain concentration of N, P, and K produced the best growth responses. However, this study was concerned with three of the twelve essential nutrients obtained by plants from the soil. Perhaps at a different nutritional balance on one of the other essential elements, the concentration of N, P, and K reported by Mr. Rawson as being the best in his nutrition study, might have had a different influence on growth.

Also Dr. Ackerman said at the University of Illinois a nutrition study is being conducted to learn the effect of a certain soluble salts normally present in the water supply upon the growth of African violets following a long time use of the water. The purpose of the study is to learn the extent of nutrient unbalance in the plant, as influenced by the progressively increasing amount of soluble salts thus given your plants. As to date, the studies are not yet completed.

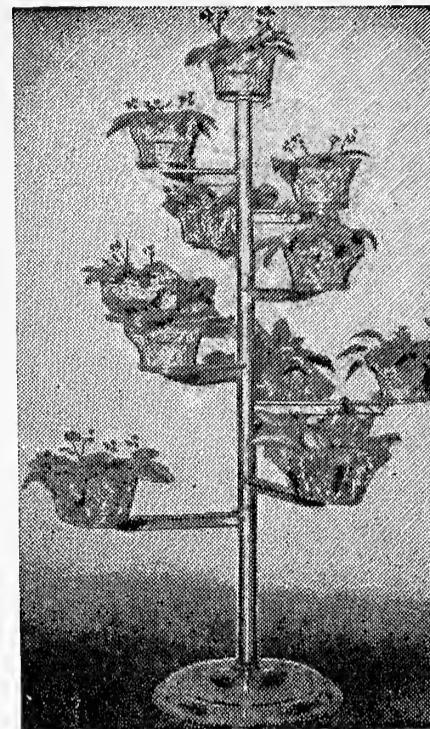
Dr. Ackerman concluded by explaining that the study of proper nutrient balance within the plant is complex. The functional concentration of all the mineral elements in the plant, both essential and certain non-essential (Cl and Na) should be recognized in considering the nutritional status of the plant so that a sound basis can be established for determining the mineral nutritional requirements of plants. This is the ideal approach to the subject. Dr. Ackerman says he realizes that perhaps all of us are not idealists. However, the inference is drawn, it seems to indicate that the application of particular fertilizer elements to a soil, without due consideration for all the mineral nutrients in the soil might induce such a nutritional unbalance in the plant grown in that soil as to greatly reduce growth, yet not cause any visible symptom of nutritional disturbance in the plant. Perhaps this inference can be used to explain in part, why a certain concentration available of N, P and K in one soil will permit good growth, but the same concentration of available N, P, and K in another soil will not permit good plant growth to occur.

Certainly Dr. Ackerman's talk has given me "Food for thought," as I don't know that I had ever considered before, what the feeding of my violets meant. I had just simply watered my violets and fed them according to the suggestions of my more experienced and learned friends, and let it go at that, and if one yellowed and died, or drooped with no pests or diseases that could be detected, I thought "Well, that is just all in the line of raising violets." Now, however, I am wondering, did I over-feed or under-feed, and what did I over-feed, or leave them a deficiency in?

Thank you Dr. Ackerman for the entirely new outlook on what "Makes Violets Tick."

THE END

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PLANT STAND For AFRICAN VIOLETS

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OTHER PLANTS
Made entirely of
rustproof aluminum.
Weight of 48" model
only about seven lbs.,
making it easy to
handle. Arms can be
swung away individu-
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for best arrange-
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Base and arm trays
are of shining spun
aluminum -- easily
kept like new with
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similar polish-wax
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Lowest arm is 15
inches above floor.

Now Available in 3 Sizes

48 inches high—holds 11 plants—\$16.95
42 inches high—holds 9 plants—15.80
36 inches high—holds 7 plants—14.50

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New SPUN-ALUMINUM Squatty AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

in RED, GOLD	3"—\$.80 ea. (3 for \$2.25)
or	4"—.90 ea. (3 for 2.60)
MOSS GREEN	5"—1.10 ea. (3 for 3.00)

In bright Aluminum finish, 20¢ less per pot
All shipped postage prepaid

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DEPT. AV-2, JACKSON, MISSOURI

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ALL HUSBANDS AND SONS!

(of Wives and Mothers who Collect Violets)
Are you worried or stumped for a Christmas Gift? Try our GIFT CERTIFICATE.

For \$5.00 or \$10.00 we will send the person of your choice a gift certificate and our

LIST OF PLANTS AND SUPPLIES

so they may select plants or supplies to help them grow better African Violets. See our Supply Adv. for suggested Aids.

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GREENHOUSES ARMS, INC.**

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(West of Arvada on Highway 72)



Vera WAS chief
Prospector



Miss Ella
Gant had gone
Along for
theride
She WAS
dressed in her
New fall suit

the dead. She nearly fainted when Mrs. St. John picked up the worm and lovingly placed it in the bag of soil. They also found the most excruciatingly beautiful (according to Ima) black humus that was a couple of inches deep around an old rotten log. Iva was overjoyed and tried to gather as much as she possibly could before Ima got it all. Poor Mr. St. John thought it was too bad when the bottom fell out of her over-filled cardboard box and left the soggy contents on the seat of his new car.

Lotta just about scared everybody out of a year's growth when she suddenly screamed, "Is that a cow?" She grabbed her three youngest ones and had there been a branch low enough to grab she would have climbed a tree to get away from the ferocious beast which, incidentally, was grazing contentedly in a field a good city block away. About that time Ima picked up another worm and let out a yell that led all to believe she had been face to face with a boa constrictor.

Mrs. Ella Gant had gone along for the ride, but was dressed in her new fall suit so she couldn't do any digging. She watched for good patches of humus and when someone was working that spot, she would ask for, "Just a shovel-ful from there please, to help fill my bucket." She just couldn't get her hands in that "wild" material; after it was sterilized, and the germs were all killed she could touch it, but not before. "Just suppose," she shuddered "that those worms had laid eggs in the soil, then some of the soil got under your nails, and you didn't get it all out, and you ate some of the worm eggs, and they hatched out inside you?" . . . and she quietly fainted, but no one bothered to revive the pest until time to start for home.

After several hours in the woods, there was one thought uppermost in all minds, "I'M HUNGRY, let's go home." Poor Mrs. St. John hadn't planned on feeding them, but what could she say when Ima opened the refrigerator and yelled, "Oh boy, fried chicken!" Mrs. St. John felt like politely protesting, but never quite got up the nerve, so . . . Next year, Mrs. St. John has promised herself that she will bring up the subject of a picnic lunch to be carried along on the next "dirt collecting."



Iva and Ima
didn't trust
each other

so they
worked
together



Ima dug like a
gopher

Collecting

Dirt



by R. E. Memberthis

Anyone who belongs to an African violet club knows there is more than one way to collect "dirt," but, for a change, the kind of dirt the club needed was good woods soil. Last year when Mrs. St. John and Ima Chatterton went on their first expedition, no one else would go along. Ida Fixit didn't need any; the road supervisors had scraped both sides of the road and she got a beautiful pile of luscious-looking scrapings dumped in her yard for free. Vera Strong couldn't manage. She had a wonderful novel and a big box of chocolates that demanded her attention. Iva Paine wasn't able to go; her leg was bothering her again. And poor Lotta Kidd couldn't get any one to keep her seven children, but she was hopeful that Mrs. St. John, in her kindly way, would remember to bring her several weeks supply.

It had been an unusually hot day for October, and Mrs. St. John thought it was a tramp at her door when Ima appeared, dressed in an old, paint-smeared, seer-sucker slack suit. Safety pins replaced the zipper and managed to conceal her upper anatomy fairly satisfactorily . . . and she was quite comfortable.

It had been so much fun deciding which site was best; they decided they would pretend they were prospecting for uranium, and settled on a slightly wooded hillside. Numerous well rotted stumps gave mute evidence of the forest that once stood there, but Ima said, "I'll bet there ain't been anybody on this land since Penn 'stole' it from the Indians." The bee-you-tee-ful black humus looked almost good enough to eat, and it took only a few minutes to see that they had brought insufficient containers. (A few days later, accompanied by their husbands, they collected their winter's supply.)

Back at Mrs. St. John's home, Ima insisted on helping her mix a batch of soil according to Ima's favorite recipe. To a bucket of sieved humus, she added peat, vermiculite, charcoal, bonemeal, dried sheep manure and Vigoro; also a generous scoop of sawdust. Most of the ingredients were unnecessary but Ima was in a

mixing mood, and everything in sight went in to the "mix." Fortunately the egg basket was empty or the soil might have turned out to be a mud custard. Just to make perfectly sure that the soil mixture wouldn't kill every plant she had, Mrs. St. John sweetly suggested that they send a sample to the State College to be analyzed. (Why college professors get gray!!) The report might as well have been written in Greek for all they knew about it, but a letter of explanation said, "The nutritive value of your mixture is excellent, as one might expect, judging from the number of things you have mixed together." (This delaying action also kept Ima from immediately repotting everything in sight and gave Mrs. St. John sufficient opportunity to dispose of the mess.)

This year at the mere mention of soil prospecting, everyone was there with bells on. Ima and Iva had long-handled shovels (which to their respective husband's disgust they got mixed, and it took three months for the men to get their own shovel back). Vera Strong had a little pick, and they all had baskets, boxes, buckets and bags . . . and only two cars.

It didn't take them long to start digging once they arrived at Chigger Hill. Mrs. St. John got her own soil; she was careful to get only nice fine humus so she wouldn't have to sift it. Vera was chief prospector. Everyone followed her, so that when she dug into a particularly rich spot they could all grab some. Ima and Iva didn't trust each other so they worked together. First they got soil from under Oak trees because they had heard that Oak-leaf mold was especially good; the fact that there were a number of different Oak trees didn't bother them. An Oak was an Oak and the one they found LOOKED alright to them. They decided that an African violet needn't be so choosy anyway and besides this was too much like work. Then there was the stuff that was under the pine tree that looked like it would loosen the soil, so they had to gather a big bag of it. Ima dug like a gopher, until . . . she dug up a long wiggly earthworm and the yell she emitted was enough to waken

POTTING SOIL AND COMPOST

A. J. Bowden, Lenoir City, Tenn.



I am afraid we will have to reverse the subject and say compost and then potting soil, for without compost we can hardly have good potting soil.

I hate to be old fashioned, but I am afraid in some things we will be forced to be. Some of us who have been in the flower business a long time can remember the old fashioned compost piles -- I only wish I had several of them going now, but with the greenhouse business demanding so much potting soil we do most of it now in the field with modern machinery such as rotillers and tractors. The method of turning in sods and manure with phosphates added and growing green crops such as crimson clover, rye and other cover crops has almost done away with large compost piles.

There has been so much said and published on compost piles and so little said about what actually goes on when we gather materials such as leaves, straw, grass clippings and so forth and put them in piles or in layers with soil manure and fertilizers.

Let us look at a pile of this kind of material now and marvel at how God has created this earth.

First, we must remember that when any material such as leaves, straw, sawdust, and so forth is decaying, the process is carried on by small microorganisms. These small organisms live mostly on nitrogen. This is the reason we can hasten the job of decomposing by adding some form of nitrogen in the form of manure or chemical fertilizer. A certain amount of moisture must be present also. These little microorganisms are living things and must have moisture to live and multiply. They break down the organic materials which become mineralized through the decaying process and the nutrients in them are converted into salts before a plant can absorb them.

So with this in mind we can begin to build our compost pile. First, select your location off where it cannot be seen. Yes, because they are not very pretty to look at. Second, near the water. Third, near the materials you expect to use, if possible. Fourth, have room enough to turn the pile or if you have a rotiller and you do not pile it up too thick, you can rotill it. Fifth, have more than one pile as it takes about one to two years to make compost. In this way,

if you want to build your compost in a pile, put it in layers about six inches deep of straw, leaves, etc. and a layer of sod turned upside down or an inch or so of good garden soil. Before you put your sod or soil on put a dressing of about two pounds of 5-10-5 or 4-12-4 and about one pound of hydrated lime. You can substitute five or ten pounds of chicken manure or a layer of cow manure. Remember that it is not necessary to use the chemical fertilizer when you use the cow manure or chicken manure.

Our method is to use whatever materials that are available. We have made a wonderful compost from leaves along the city streets. The only thing is to watch and not get them where car oil has been spilled.

A small amount of soil on top will keep the leaves from blowing away and will help to hold moisture. One important thing to put in all compost piles, if possible, is some form of manure. Here we get nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulphur and the trace elements. But in the chemical action most of the phosphates are tied up and a few pounds of super phosphates added will make a more balanced fertilizer.

Let us take a look at some of the materials that we build the compost pile up of and see how each acts and maybe we can get a birds-eye view of what is going on.

FIRST

Manure -- Most manure is teeming with bacteria and other microorganisms which is almost a must in our compost. We must remember that composting is largely a biological process and if we use layers of vegetable matter such as green clippings, straw, green materials from the gardens and layers of soil, the layers of soil should be high in organic matters.

I can see by the expression on some of your faces, "Mr. Bowden, what is that stuff?" But listen, we get most everything we want if we want it bad enough and if you would look around some good farmer would let you have a few sacks. There is also the dried cow manure and sheep manure on the market for sale. Animal manure has four outstanding characteristics:

1. The moist condition runs about 50% to 80%, depending on the condition.
2. Contrary to your belief, it is low in nutrients. We often hear it said that manure will burn up your plants.
3. Its effect is long lasting.
4. Maybe the most outstanding is the fermenting and decaying activities.

SECOND

Straw -- Most any kind of straw can be bought cheaply. Now, we have what we might call a dried material and the bacteria and micro-organisms are not so abundant. So, we must supply a mixture of fertilizer salts such as nitrate of soda or sulfate of ammonia. We can use ground limestone or hydrate lime and super phosphate, or we can use a complete fertilizer, say a 5-10-5. This material can be put in layers with some soil mixed but must be wet and if packed down it will decay quicker and will retain more nutrients.

THIRD

Leaves -- Here we have another dried material and must have the same chemical treatment as the straw. One thing to remember is that leaves are flat and lay very closely together and if you are to get them wet you must put them in a few at a time. If you have someway to grind them up it would be wonderful. That is the biggest reason for mixing all our materials such as leaves, grass clippings, etc. because we can decay them faster. In this way the moisture is more even and the bacterial life is greater. I am sure most of you have been through wooded sections and the leaves on top, as you notice them, may be one and two years old, and if you will examine them closely they will be loose and dry, but when they have blown in a heap and some soil washed over them, they have decomposed twice as quickly.

As I have said, we must use what materials we have at hand. In the cotton belt you have the materials that are thrown away from the gins. In the peanut regions you might have peanut hulls and vines. In the corn belts you have corn cobs. In the wooded sections you have sawdust and plenty of leaves. In the grass lands you have hay or sod and in the tobacco belt the tobacco stalks and bad leaves. We could go on naming many more. You might say that you can compost all of these materials. Yes, if we will study more about chemistry and nature and know how we can use the compost after we have composted it . . .

One of the materials we will have to take a look at is weeds. Yes, just the old green weeds. Don't like them, do we? But we can compost them too. Just put them in green or dry. They will consist of the following: water, 75%; ash, 2%; hydrogen, 2%; oxygen, 10%; carbon, 11%. The amount of moisture makes green plant tissue decay quicker and this is good and still it is bad. The humus we get from the compost is what we are after and the materials that decay quickest disappear from the soil first. You can

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(On cover of March A. V. Magazine)

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turn a green crop under and it will decay quickly and leave very little humus but will condition the soil. The roots of the plants will not break down so fast and this helps to retain the physical condition of the soil longer.

Now, I expect we could spend all of our time on this one subject, compost, and then be about as baffled as we were in the beginning.

We must take the material we get from the compost and learn how to use it. As we have said, it is the humus that we want to mix with various soils, particularly to make a growing medium for the plants to grow in. You know, plants are "sorta" like human beings. Some live in any kind of environment and on almost any kind of food while with others, it must be this way or that way. You know, I asked a baby specialist how babies in the slums in all of the dirt and filth survived while most of the upper class had to have their babies regularly examined and kept just so-so, and still many of them died. He told me that the only answer he could give was that the baby, in its will to live, which is created in all humans, pulling through all that filth and dirt becomes immune to it, the same as a child is immune from smallpox after he is given a vaccine for it. We know that if we give our body good care and the right kind of food we will thrive and have a long life. It is the same with plant life.

We have so many types of soil that it would be impossible to give you a formula to grow

your African violets in, but I think it would be wise to spend a little time studying and seeing how we can combine certain materials together to make a balanced growing medium for this plant. I know that is what you are interested in. Can I take my soils and combine certain materials together for a good growing medium or must I go and buy this from someone who has combined certain materials and proved that this will do the job? If it is just a small amount, that you need, I would say, go and buy it, but even if you do buy it you should know something about the soils and materials you are buying. Is this the right mixture that I want? Let us take a look at these soils. Some people say dirt -- I think of dirt as something like grease and soot that makes our hands, clothes, and faces look bad. Soils are something we like to get our hands into. I will never forget the first time I saw the black sands of Texas, as they call them. I just wanted to get down and roll in that soil . . .

Soil may be placed in three classes: Sand, silt and clay. We must be very careful to know what we mean when we say sand. There are many sizes of the grains of sand that we are interested in. Nearly every combination we read or hear about will say that if the soil has too much silt or clay add sand. Well, what the directions mean is to add a clean sharp sand. This sand will help but if we use a very fine sand we only make the thing harder or seal the particles together. We must remember there is

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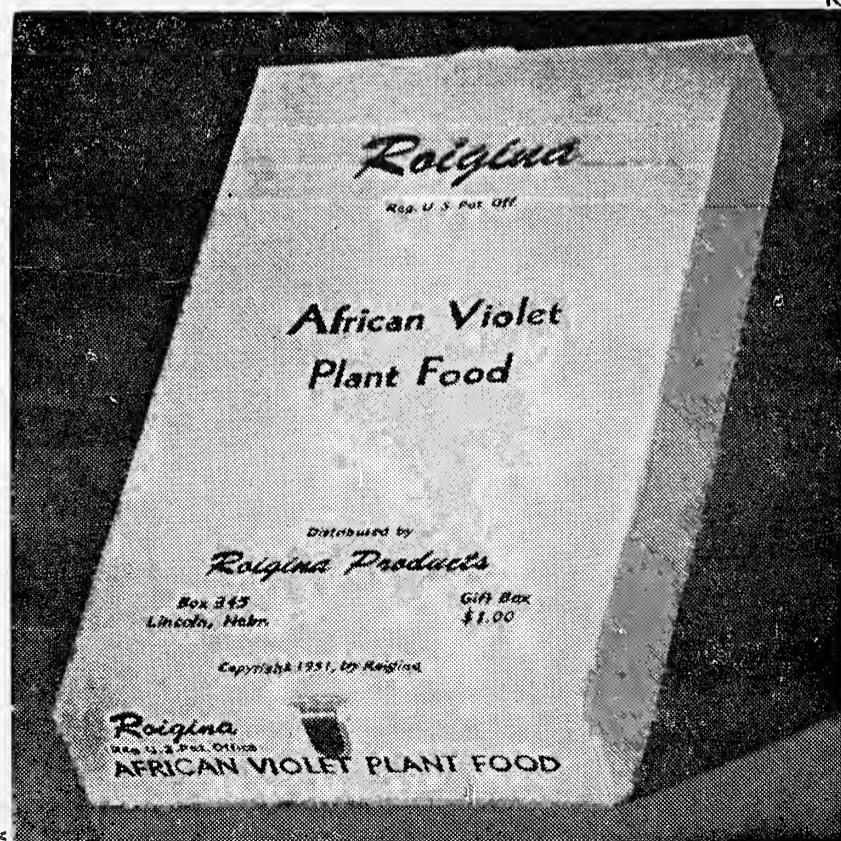
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fine gravel, coarse sand, medium sand, fine sand and very fine sand and most of the time the formulas that call for sand mean coarse or medium sand. You might say, "Well, can you grow plants in gravels or sand?" Yes, you remember a few years back when all our experiment stations were doing work in hydroponics. You know it is amusing how the human race goes about in circles. For several years it was pH, then Hydroponics. But the good thing to remember that out of all our circles we go around in, a lot of knowledge of the things we did not know comes out of them and now with hydroponics we can grow plants and tell what nutrients the plant uses and when they use them. It was my pleasure to be at our government experiment station at Beltsville, Maryland the other day, and Dr. Neal Stuart was showing me some lilies that were growing in hydroponics. They have discovered that the lily only uses nitrogen up to a certain stage and then when the bloom bud shows, it begins to use phosphates and potash. So you see, after a few years of this work we can grow better lilies than we have ever produced. We must keep in mind that sand or gravel are small pieces of stone and each piece is either clean or has a coating of small clay particles around it. Our silt is made up of sand, smaller rock and possibly some clay in it.

Then our clay soils are the ones we usually think of as very bad materials. But without them, we would have a time making the others do the work of the clay. When we speak of clay soils we usually mean a soil that only contains 30% pure clay and about 50% of clay and silt combined. So, it is with these combinations that we decide on when we are mixing for potting soil. Every person that has had very much experience with soils knows that soil structure is the key to soil fertility.

If we are to put a combination of these materials together to have a good growing medium for our violets, we must first know something about the size and kind of roots the plant develops. As you all know the Saintpaulia has a fine fibrous root system. Therefore, it will take a soil that is porous and well drained. We would want to put just enough clay and silt in with the composted and peat materials to hold them together and keep them from being too porous and open.

We have just mentioned peat for the first time. So let's take a look at this material. There are so many deposits of peat in the world we would not have time to go into detail and discuss all of them, but some of the commercial ones we will. I guess the type we receive from Germany, Canada and certain parts of the United States, are the most common. The thing that will interest us most is three types of this material. 1st. Sediment, 2nd Fibrous, and 3rd Woody. It is the second one, Fibrous that we usually use, because it is slightly decomposed and fibrous, the sediment being too fine and the woody too coarse.

One of the most outstanding values of peat is its water holding capacity. A good loam soil will hold from one-fifth to two-fifths its weight of water, while peat will hold ten times more. So you can readily see with a mixture of peat in our potting soil, one can not only improve the physical condition but the water holding capacity. We must not overlook the organic content of the peat which is about 80%.

An analysis of most peats show them low in many of our nutrients. The important thing is to know the pH. Most peats are the acid side even with a high calcium content, which goes to show us we do not know all about nature.

Maybe the person was right who said, "It is the things we have learned after you think you know it all that counts."

If the pH. is too low we can use limestone to correct it. The amount we use depends upon the kind of limestone or lime we use.

Now, let us think about putting some of our materials together. The amount of clay (or clay and silt which we will call loam) will depend upon its characteristics. The amount of compost upon what materials you have used in the compost pile and the amount of peat on the amount of compost you have used. Some growers like to add charcoal which is fine. All these ingredients wisely used should make an excellent growing medium for your African violets.

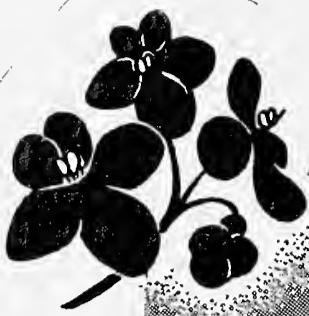
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QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

Q: Am wondering if a plant raised from a sucker is more apt to produce suckers than one raised from a leaf? Also, is it true that soil in which no plant roots have grown for several weeks is free of nematodes?

Mrs. L. L. Cumberland, Coster, Md.

A: Some plants tend to send out suckers more than others so I don't think that a sucker is more apt to produce suckers than a leaf from the same plant.

In regard to Nematodes in the soil, I have a very interesting letter that may help you out. For the past five months I have been tracing down a certain soil fumigant that will kill nematodes in the soil. This past winter I went to a meeting at a greenhouse in Buffalo, New York that was giving a speech by a Cornell University professor on Nematodes. This soil fumigant is called Dowfume MC-2 and was put up in sample lots for some of the greenhouses in Western New York in a capsule form. In capsule form Dowfume MC-2 is called Soilfume-Caps and costs \$2.00 for 100 capsules. I don't know whether this is the same product that Neil Miller is selling for soil Sterilization. Soilfume-Caps are only good to kill and prevent Nematodes. Methyl Bromide is what is in these Soilfume-Caps. Cornell University puts out a pamphlet called Memoir 303 -- Use of Methyl Bromide and other Volatile Chemicals for Soil Fumigations.

Mrs. Ella Wilson, N. Tonawanda, N. Y.

Q: I have a problem that I hope you or one of your readers can help me solve. I am particularly fond of violets with red-backed leaves and usually look for them when I buy new plants. However, invariably after I have had the plants at home for a few weeks, the red gradually fades and I have leaves that are the usual green on both sides. I have violets in east, west and south windows and under fluorescent lights and they all act the same way. The plants all bloom nicely, no matter what window they are in.

Mrs. Henry Slade, Jr., DeKalb, Ill.

A: I can't understand it unless it can be the chemicals in the water that you are using. Of course, if others in your community do not have this same condition then it can't be the water. My experience has been a west window or northwest window tends to encourage red reverse to leaves. Will members let us hear from them on this?

Q: I would like to purchase a strawberry jar for some of my plants and have been unable to obtain one in the Trenton area. Do you know of any place that now sells the strawberry jars?

Mrs. Rita Steele, New Egypt, N. J.

A: I checked with our local stores and these jars can be obtained from the Zanesville Pottery Company Zanesville, Ohio. They are from six to eight inches tall and will hold five plants. Would suggest that you write this company to find out what stores they supply in your Trenton area.

Q: I have a limey, chalk like moist business that rises off my soil and crawls over the edge of the violet pots. Of course, when a stem touches this substance it dies. What should I add to my soil mixture to prevent this condition?

Mrs. G. Parry, Cheyenne, Wyo.

A: This is a condition that everyone has as far as soil is concerned but the rim of your pot can be treated so that when the leaves touch it they will not rot. After washing my pots and letting them become dry I cover the rim of the pot with aluminum foil and fasten with scotch tape. This makes a very neat appearing pot and eliminates the rotted leaves. Some people prefer dipping the rims of the pots in melted paraffin but I don't like this method as the pots are too messy when you have a repotting job to do and want to get the first layer of paraffin off.

Q: I am enclosing a flower with buds that seem to be dried up. Can you tell me what is causing this? Just every now and then I find this to be happening and not on any particular variety. The enclosed is from a Delight plant. I sterilize the pots and soil, use Hyponex and Sodium Selenate.

Mrs. Earl H. Miney, Buffalo, N. Y.

A: I have had this happen when the plant has become too dry at some time. Try using a nut pick or ice pick in the top of the soil to loosen it so that the water will have a chance to get to the roots. Perhaps some one else will have a different theory.

Q: Can you tell me where I can buy a variegated African violet and also would like to know more about miniatures?

Mrs. E. J. Wick, Jr., Miami, Fla.

A: If you will write to some of the dealers listed in our African Violet Magazine I am sure that they will be able to help you out with the variegated African violet.

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Name _____

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Registration for the entire Convention including the Show, one luncheon meeting, one dinner meeting and one banquet meeting is \$18.00.

Please send your reservation in before April 1, 1954. If you cannot attend the entire Convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for.

Thursday Dinner Meeting	\$4.50
Friday Luncheon Meeting	\$3.50
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CHASE HOTEL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1954

Class will be held from 9:00 A. M. to 12:00 A. M. with the examination in the afternoon from 3:00 P. M. to 4:30 P. M. Registration fee \$1.00.

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Sign the above blank and send your registration fee of \$1.00 to Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee not later than April 1, 1954 if you wish to attend the judging school. Members whose certificates have expired may renew them and new judges will be qualified. **MAKE REGISTRATION FEE CHECK PAYABLE TO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA.**

and the error estimate (3.1) follows from (3.10), (3.11) and (3.12).

Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain with a piecewise smooth boundary. Let u_h be the finite element approximation of u defined by (3.1)–(3.3). Then there exists a constant C independent of h such that*

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}, \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}. \quad (3.13)$$

Proof. By (3.1) and (3.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 = \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u - \nabla u_h)^T (\nabla u - \nabla u_h) dx \\ & \leq \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|\nabla(u - u_h)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} + \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|\nabla(u - u_h)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \\ & \leq \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

By (3.13) and (3.14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 \leq \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \\ & \leq \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq \sqrt{\|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}.$$

Similarly, we can prove that

$$\|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \sqrt{\|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}.$$

Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain with a piecewise smooth boundary. Let u_h be the finite element approximation of u defined by (3.1)–(3.3). Then there exists a constant C independent of h such that*

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}, \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}. \quad (3.14)$$

Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.3. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain with a piecewise smooth boundary. Let u_h be the finite element approximation of u defined by (3.1)–(3.3). Then there exists a constant C independent of h such that*

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}, \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}. \quad (3.15)$$

Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.4. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain with a piecewise smooth boundary. Let u_h be the finite element approximation of u defined by (3.1)–(3.3). Then there exists a constant C independent of h such that*

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}, \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}. \quad (3.16)$$

Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.5. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain with a piecewise smooth boundary. Let u_h be the finite element approximation of u defined by (3.1)–(3.3). Then there exists a constant C independent of h such that*

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}, \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}. \quad (3.17)$$

Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.6. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain with a piecewise smooth boundary. Let u_h be the finite element approximation of u defined by (3.1)–(3.3). Then there exists a constant C independent of h such that*

$$\|u - u_h\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}, \quad \|u - u_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C h^{1/2} \|u\|_{H^3(\Omega)}. \quad (3.18)$$

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be made between 2:00 -- 5:00 P. M., Wednesday, April 21, 1954 and Thursday, April 22, 1954, between 10:00 A. M., and 5:00 P. M. Judging will be from 6:30 -- 8:30 P. M.
2. Plants arriving too late to be entered will be shown for exhibition only.
3. Only clean healthy plants will be accepted, and must have been in the exhibitor's possession at least three months.
4. An exhibitor can make only one entry in each variety (that is, one Blue Boy, one Pink Cheer, etc.)
5. Each variety entered must be correctly named or subject to correction by the Classification Committee.
6. The Society will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any loss.
7. All plants entered in Division 1, Class 1 through 14 must be single crown plants.
8. If an exhibit is not entered by the owner, the name of such person making the entry must be on the back of the entry card.
9. For uniformity all pots must be covered with aluminum foil. Exhibitors are to print their names on adhesive tape, and attach to bottom of foil covered pots.
10. All entries in both the Amateur Show and Commercial Exhibits may be removed from 11:00 -- 12:00 P. M., Friday, April 23, 1954, and from 9:00 -- 12:00 A. M., Saturday, April 24, 1954. In order to provide protection to the exhibitors, the amateur exhibitor's membership card must be checked against the entry card.
11. The show will be judged on the merit basis, and the decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified judges of the Society will be permitted to judge.
12. Only St. Louis and St. Louis County Clubs, will be permitted to enter in Class 14. Clubs with members desiring to compete for this award must make application to the Corresponding Secretary of "African Violet Society of America, Inc." 30 days in advance of show date, stating that they are conforming to the requirements of the National Society in the giving of Gold and Purple Ribbons at the local shows. Each of these plants will be point scored by the judges, and must score 90 points.
13. All club year books entered in Class 23 must be sent to Mrs. W. F. Moch, 149 E. Drake Ave., Webster Groves 19, Missouri, not later than April 19, 1954. These books must be no larger than 5 x 8 inches, being the same as all club members receive, and once entered become the property of the Society and will not be returned. It is not compulsory for clubs entering year books to be Affiliated with the National Society.

SOCIETY AWARDS

THE SILVER CUP of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be awarded to the best registered named variety of African violet in the specimen classes (Class 1 through 11) of the amateur division of Convention Show.

AWARD OF MERIT RIBBON will be given to the runner-up or second best registered named variety in the specimen classes. (Class 1 through 11.)

HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON will be given to the third best registered named variety in the specimen classes. (Class 1 through 11.)

SPECIAL AWARDS

ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES SILVER BOWL AWARD will be given by Popular Gardening Magazine to the winner of the most blue ribbons, or firsts, in the specimen classes of the amateur division. (Class 1 through 14.)

GEORGE W. KOCH SONS COMPANY AWARD to the runner-up of the Silver Cup, a metal plant stand.

TINARI FLORAL GARDENS AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen of the named variety, Clementine.

ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD of \$25.00 for best specimen of the named variety, Alma Wright.

BOYCE M. EDENS PLANT AWARD. A cash award of \$25.00 will be given by Mrs. Sam Nichols for the best plant of the named variety Boyce M. Edens.

TUBE CRAFT FLORAL CART AWARD for three specimen plants: (1 true purple, 1 pink and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points, each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks and whites.

GRANGER GARDENS AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen of the named variety, White Madonna.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CROSS HYBRID AWARD sponsored by the Research Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Members or non-members of the Society will be awarded \$25.00 for the best entry of a plant, or plants, resulting from a cross of any genus of the Gesneria family, like Achimenes or Gloxinias on the genus Saintpaulia (African violet). This exhibit to be judged by the Research Committee and must give visual indication that it is a successful cross genus hybrid showing some characteristics of the other Gesneria hybrid.

YEAR BOOK AWARDS given by the African Violet Magazine for the best year books of any African Violet Club.

FIRST PRIZE \$5.00

SECOND PRIZE \$3.00

THIRD PRIZE \$2.00

In collecting miniatures, I have found that there is a vast difference between the dwarf varieties and the true miniatures. Some are classed miniatures when in reality they are either dwarfed standard plants or slow growing plants that will eventually reach good size. Among these latter are Old Lace and Blue Girl Compacta and variations of these. The dwarf varieties might include Gypsy Pink, Dubonnet, My Lady Sue or Burgundy, My Lady Joan, Double Orchid Girl, Ruffled Beauty, Petite and many of the regular standard varieties that have sported dwarf versions.

The true miniatures are a little harder to find. These are often called the tea cup miniatures because they grow no larger than an ordinary tea cup. I personally like these because they seem to fit better on some of our narrow window sills. A well rounded collection of miniatures could include Snow Lace, a pure white on tight girl foliage, Red Pet and Blue Pet which are miniatures of Red Girl and Blue Girl, Pixie which has bubbly foliage and red flowers and is one of the Violette series, Naughty Marietta, a very nice pink on small tight girl foliage, Moonlight, a newer variety with girl foliage and a amethyst blossom and cut up foliage, aptly named mottled white blossom, and my favorite with the Jessie Cut-up. Others include Wendy, Dolly Dimple, Tinker Bell, and the Violettes Elf and Baby Doll and recently Fischer has come out with some new miniatures though I have found that many commercial companies don't make the distinction between the true miniatures and the dwarf varieties, which might not be too important to many collectors who may like both or an assortment. The miniatures are very slow growing as might be imagined and to some do not give the satisfaction of the larger and showier plants but I find them so attractive and cute as to be exceedingly worth while. These smaller plants need very little moisture to get them by and are easily over-watered as there is not so much leaf exposure to give off the excess moisture to the air. They are better kept on the dry side and seem to be ideally suited to a strawberry jar or other planters that mix them. My own favorite is a jello mold divided into seven sections. Painted white, the unit makes an attractive center piece with the different colored blossoms mixed in together.

Mrs. Dorothy Follet, Chenango Bridge, N. Y.

Q: I am much interested in the Question Box of the June 1952 issue. I have about ninety plants -- about fifty adults and blooming beautifully. Also three dishes of seedlings coming along. I live in an apartment and have five thirty-six inch windows, three of which are a bay and a wide kitchen window rather close to my gas range. I haven't tried any of my precious plants there but may have to with the new family increasing so. To the best of my knowledge there is no gas leakage. Have you ever had any experience in a kitchen in regard to growing plants? Also am interested in Colchicine. How to use and what results do your readers have?

Mrs. Mae Sterling, Philadelphia, Pa.

A: If there is no gas leakage I am sure your plants will do all right in the window sills as many people have best results in their kitchens due to the steam from the cooking. Hope that some of the readers that have had some experience with Colchicine will write in and tell us about it.

Q: Have been reading the Question Box in the African Violet Magazine so thought I would bring my problems along. Have a Sapphire Star plant at least one and one-half years old, never bloomed. Have at least four nice plants I started from it and still no bloom although all are old enough and large enough to bloom. Can you tell me what to do? Also is spray feeding as good as a root feeding? Lady Geneva has lost her white edge in the last blooming . . . It is all blue. Can you tell me the trouble there? Is it a must when mixing your own soil to sterilize it in the oven or in some way? Must it be sterilized?

Mrs. Katherine Schultz, Clinton, Ohio

A: Star Sapphire is noted for being a very slow bloomer. Everyone that I know that has one complains about this but keeps the variety because of its unusual blossom. Spray feeding is now being used by some growers but I would think that to alternate and first do one and then the other would be good for a starter. If you are interested why not experiment and take two plants of the same variety and root feed one and spray feed one? At the Convention in Nashville, Mrs. George Mayer of Illinois had two plants that she had experimented with and the spray fed plant was much larger and had more blossoms. She was using Instant Vigoro, a new product on the market. She warned to cut directions one half as it is too strong. Can not say why Lady Geneva lost her white edge. Some people say it is because the plant has been moved.

To Dorothy Stewart, Boston, Mass.

I have just read the letter from Dorothy Stewart of Boston, Massachusetts, and I notice she says she keeps her plants "on the dry side." I wonder if perhaps she is not keeping them too dry. My observation is that they do not blossom too well when kept dry. I think, too, that a finger in the soil is a more accurate test than the weight of the pots. If she is afraid of overwatering, why not try out one or two, let them get dry but not stay that way? If they start to bud, then be a bit more generous with water for the others. Plants grown too far from the lights will not set buds either but I notice she speaks of having hers in the window.

Mrs. Henry McAulay, Pigeon, Mich.

To Dorothy Stewart, Boston, Mass.

When I have an African violet which refuses to bloom I first try an eggshell tea on it. It is made by putting water on mashed egg shells and let sit over night. Then take one-half egg shell tea and half rain water and warm and then water. Also Stim-u-plant food is very good to get slow plants started. Then if they will not bloom I give it the shock treatment. Put African violet in re-

frigerator for twelve to twenty-four hours. Take out and they usually will start to bloom in a few weeks. Also set African violet in pot in a pan of boiling water, being careful not to let the water come over top of pot. Leave in until cool. Do not have pan on stove at the time of putting African violet in it as this would hold the heat too long.

Mrs. J. D. Bolenbaugh, Jackson, Mich.

To Mrs. Lyman E. Jones, Milk River, Alta, Can.

I noticed in the June Magazine that Mrs. Jones said her violets had water blisters around the leaf stems and main stem, so I thought my violet experience would be of help to some one. I have grown African violets for four years and everything went along fine until last summer. I had given my grand daughter a number of plants, they were lovely, when something happened. They began having blisters. She lost all the plants, some fast and some lingered a long time. She tried doctoring them but to no avail. We live near my son, so a little later I noticed some of my plants were affected the same way, so I decided to take my plants to the state college for diagnosis. The Doctor looked them over and said,

"Your plants do not look sick, they look healthy with the exception of those blisters." Then he asked "Has there been any weed spraying near while your door and windows were open?" He added that he might be wrong but that this looks like burns from weed spray. So, here was the answer, my son having his clothes that were saturated with fumes, in the room where my grand daughter kept her violets, and one day a little later, he came into our house to talk a few minutes, his clothes saturated for he was spraying again, but it was for only such a short time I lost only a few plants. Others were sick for months so beware of weed sprays.

Mrs. Elmer Widman, Rosalie, Wash.

Sorry that there are so few answers this time but through the hot summer months we do not feel like sitting down and writing, even our troubles. This copy should reach you when we all are looking forward for our plants to put on their Christmas show so at this time I want to wish each and everyone of you the nicest blooming Christmas possible.

Lois Minehan

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Phil Libby, 1437 Wisconsin Ave., Racine Wis.

On one of my summer trips up into Wisconsin, I stopped at George Peck's at Pine River. There, hidden off the road, George has a beautiful old home filled with African violets. He has a very efficient nursery, with a "secret" soil, and his display stands are very good, with full fluorescent lighting. He selects better than average varieties and holds to only a few of them. Varieties that are poor producers, he culls out of his collection. All in all his hobby is proving worthwhile and anyone traveling up his way will do well to stop in and see his plants.

And from Bournemouth, England, one of our fellow hobbyists -- Bert Stretch wrote me a long letter about conditions in England, regarding violets there. Part of his letter I'll quote -- "And as the ladies seem to be making a show on this side of the pond, I thought perhaps you would like to hear the man's side. The ladies must have a way with them, because my initial efforts can only be labeled 'thwarted.' I saw my first African violets in Philadelphia, in 1949, and on returning to England set to work in the horticultural sphere to procure some plants. After six months I did manage to obtain a few plants of S. ionantha. Last October I was again in the states, and while at Atlantic City saw some really amazing violets, the high spots of course being at Fischers -- what a feast to behold! . . . In the October issue of an American Gardening Magazine there was a special section given over to African violet leaves. This appears to be the only method of getting named varieties into England, as apparently anything with roots on it must go through the Ministry of Agriculture, to say nothing of strict quarantine. Hold everything, for here is the cry -- I wrote to numerous advertisers for a list of leaves, before starting off on an extended tour, and when I returned to Philadelphia some 14 days later not a blessed reply . . . At this point I did not know which way to turn in my search for the African violet, so I tried a last plunge -- seed, for then I had given up all hope of owning a plant of a named variety . . . The day before we flew home I got a letter from Dale Ulery, recommending a firm who sold seed . . . I sent for them . . . and the first batch of plants are progressing; the second sowing are just showing, so here's hoping . . . As I see it, two main factors are against the

African violet becoming anything like so popular over here as it is with you. One is that the climatic conditions are not conducive to even growth, and having gotten thru the summer and fall, the question is how to weather the winter. The other reason is very few homes have central heating (and after all most of your violets are grown in the house) and few people have the luxury of a heated greenhouse . . ." Unquote. Perhaps some of you fellows here in the states would like to write Bert. His address is 205 Belle Vue Road, Southborne, Bournemouth, England. I'm sure he'd be glad to hear from you.

John S. Coryell, who for the past four years has been Assistant Professor in Horticulture at Kansas State College, teaching and doing research in floriculture and greenhouse management, has been bitten by the "BUG" and has gone commercial. Yep, he's built a new home, greenhouse and salesroom, just outside of Denver, at Golden, Colorado. He will specialize in African violets and products. John is a nice fellow and if you are out in his vicinity why not look him up?

Several of the fellows have written me that they have sent or are sending the fifteen year old lad . . . James Schendel, 3711 North Sheridan Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota leaves to add to his collection. This is the lad who has been ill for over two years and out of school, and whose doctor said he should have a hobby. James selected African violets as his hobby. Lots of luck, James!

From Platteville, Wisconsin, an interesting letter arrived from Ray H. Finke, who got bitten by the bug, while watering his wife's violets, due to being at home, because of an auto accident. Yep, this is another way for men to become interested in our hobby.

Comes oodles of letters from men . . . African violets are a woman's hobby. My contact with men all over the country proves that this is not so! True women have more time perhaps to take care of their plants and all that, but believe you me, some of the collections I've seen that have been grown by men are hard to beat. This is not written to start a controversy on the subject, but aimed at men who are holding back raising violets as a hobby, because they think they are not for men. Those of you who have not

written me about your troubles and success, why not drop me a line and tell me about your selves? It takes letters from you men to keep this column going. If you want a personal answer do please enclose stamped envelope. To those of you who have written me, thanks very much, I do appreciate them and keep up the good work. I know that I am somewhat behind in answering, because I too am a busy individual, (have to work for a living) but I'll get them answered personally sometime.

The latter part of August I visited Des Moines, Iowa, and my calls on men were not very fruitful. However, I did have a grand visit with . . . none other than Ferne Kellar, and as usual she is working on another batch of seedlings which will prove successful I know. Good luck, Ferne!

And now a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

THE END

It will be a —

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HOT SUMMER

DISCOURAGED BLOOM

Martha Seefeldt, Trenton, Ill.

ON LEARNING THAT MRS. SEEFELDT PLANNED A SUMMER OUT OF DOORS FOR HER PLANTS THE EDITOR ASKED HER TO REPORT ON THEIR CONDITION THIS FALL.

I am convinced I chose a poor year to experiment with Saintpaulias by putting them out on the open porch this summer.

We've had heat. And I mean hot heat for days on end. When the thermometer reads 102 -- 105 -- 108 degrees it's hot. And we had those readings for days.

But the violets did not fare too badly. We did not lose any, which I was afraid would happen. But they did not bloom either. One, Jessie, was in bloom all summer but the rest just sat it out.

We had such horrible dust too. We are about a half block from a rock road and the dust has been awful all summer. What little rain we did get dried off quickly and then more dust. So I have rinsed the foliage often because the leaves were grey with dust.

In comparison, the leaves of those indoors are a richer green, but we have had few to bloom of those we kept in the house either. No doubt the heat too, is to blame. We have had ninety-eight degrees indoors too.

They all received the same feeding and care. Hyponex once a week and kept a little on the dry side.

There are buds showing on both the indoor and outdoor plants so perhaps they chose to rest the hot summer out.

The doubles are in bloom all the time. They are the ones that had the flowers for us during the season.

Last week the temperature dropped from ninety-eight to fifty-four degrees overnight which was not good for man or beast, let alone Saintpaulias. We have had a sixty-five to seventy degree reading today. It is eighty-four degrees at this writing.

After a good brushing and a dousing in warm water, they will all come back in the house and here is hoping we will be rewarded with flowers galore all winter.

The heat was hard on the Begonias too but the geraniums and petunias seemed to enjoy it more than I did.

THE END

THE NEMATODE PROBLEM

(Permission to print obtained)

MR. HAROLD L. PORTER
SPECIALIST IN CHARGE, INSECT AND
PLANT DISEASE CONTROL
OHIO STATE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
COLUMBUS 15, OHIO

Dear Mr. Porter:

Your letter of November 19, requesting information as to the nematode problem in greenhouses producing *Saintpaulia*, has been turned over to us for reply.

We are not well informed as to the production of African violets, but have recently visited a greenhouse where some nematode trouble was seen and will assume that your conditions are more or less similar. It will also be assumed that the nematodes are root-knot nematodes (now known as *Meloidogyne* spp., but formerly known as *Heterodera marioni*). Other nematodes may damage African violets, but this is the most common one in our experience and the control measures outlined below will also control other root infecting nematodes.

In the house we saw, the plants were being grown in small pots on wooden benches covered with about two inches of sand. Plants were being propagated by removing leaves from the old plants and rooting them in vermiculite. The nematode infection in the plants, including the plants being rooted was fairly general. Many of the plants which should be ready for sale were growing poorly. The root systems were badly knotted with many nematodes. In addition, we found that the stems of the plants were very heavily infected and there were nematodes even in the bases of the leaf petioles. As a result of this infection, there was considerable rotting of roots and stems. As you know, plant tissue invaded by root-knot nematodes rots much more easily than normal tissue. Many of the plants were unsaleable or at best, of very poor quality.

Such a situation does not develop in a short time, but is the result of poor practice for a long time. Unfortunately, there is no way to salvage the infected plants as complete plants. That is, there is no way to kill the nematodes in the plants that should be ready for sale. The grower, in a last desperate effort, is spraying with Parathion, but neither we nor he have any more than a faint hope that it will do any good. He is also thinking of using sodium selenate, but this probably will not do any good either. Parathion and sodium selenate are used for control of foliar nematodes in chrysanthemums and we are trying out Parathion for other nematode killing purposes, but to date, we have no evidence that it will kill root-knot nematodes in plant tissue.

We consider sodium selenate much too poisonous for any sort of use.

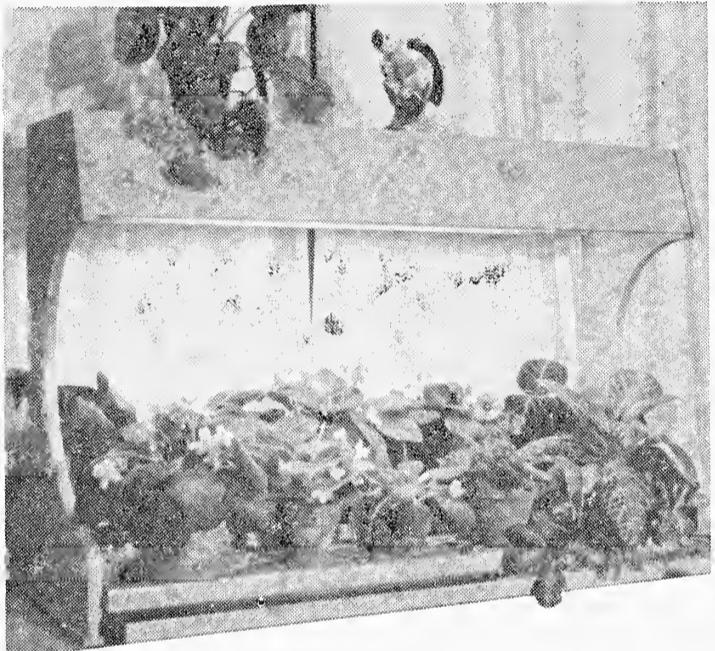
It is my personal opinion that efforts should be directed toward salvaging as much as possible of the present stock and preparing to make a new start. I would proceed somewhat as follows:

1. The benches should be cleaned up, starting with the bench for rooting leaves. Cleaning up a bench so far as root-knot nematodes are concerned, can be done by first getting rid of any material on the bench (sand, vermiculite, etc.) and disposing of it in a place where it will never get back into the greenhouse. When the bench is cleaned down to the bare boards, it should be thoroughly washed and then permitted to dry. Root-knot nematodes are easily killed by drying and if the bench is allowed to dry for a week or two, it should be reasonably clean. You might also advise an application of fungicide in addition to the washing, but the drying is the important thing in killing the root-knot nematodes. If steam is available, the boards might be steamed after washing. A thorough drenching with hot water would also help.
2. The bench should then be filled with fresh vermiculite. If sand is used, it should be sterilized.
3. Leaves can be taken from the infected plants for rooting, but it should be kept in mind that nematodes can be brought with these to the clean bench. This danger cannot be entirely eliminated, but it is probable that it can be minimized by using only the leaves which stand upright on the plants and avoiding those which are more or less horizontal and therefore perhaps in contact with the soil or the edge of the pot. Flats filled with vermiculite and set on overturned pots on the clean bench should be used for rooting small groups of leaves, particularly those from new acquisitions or valuable varieties. If nematodes are found in any one flat the plants can be discarded or otherwise segregated, reducing the chances for spreading the infection to neighboring flats. We have found root-knot nematodes mostly at the base of the leaf petioles, but it is probable that they can enter the petiole at any point where it is in contact with the soil, so the upright leaves can be assumed to be less apt to be infected, except at the base. This infection can be eliminated by trimming the petiole as short as possible with proper regard to proper rooting. We have seen petioles trimmed to about one-half an inch to an inch long and this ought to be all right to get rid of the

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HOME CRAFT

BOX 435

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

nematodes, but I assume that every greenhouse man has his own ideas on the subject. I would say to trim them not less than an inch above the base. As a further precaution, the trimmed leaves should be thoroughly washed in cold running water to eliminate any soil or stray nematodes. They can then be rooted in the regular way. In commercial practice, this system is not going to be 100% effective. In a badly infested house, some nematodes are going to get into the rooting bench, so it will be a good idea to wash the roots as the plants are taken from the bench after rooting and look for knots as the plants are potted. Knotted plants should be discarded at once and special care taken with inspection of plants grown in that section of the rooting bench. If one is infected, others in the vicinity will be also.

4. The clean-up job (cleaning and drying as described above) should be repeated for the bench used for the potted plants. If a layer of sand is to be used on this bench, it should be sterilized, either by steam or thorough fumigation with chloropicrin, methyl bromide or chlorobromopropene. In fact, if the sand can be eliminated entirely, it would help. In spite of all precautions, some of the plants are going to be infected, and the nematodes can spread from these infected plants to neighboring plants if they have some damp sand through which they can migrate. In our experimental work, we use a saucer for each pot and keep the benches clean so that they will dry out between waterings. We also sterilize all our pots. Whether the greenhouse man would consider that system practical or not, I do not know. Of course, the potting soil should be sterilized, either by steam or chemicals. This applies no matter where it is obtained. Field soil can and often does have root-knot nematodes, even in your part of the country, and any soil can have nematodes of some kind, as well as bacteria and fungi, capable of infecting African violets. Sterilization is the only answer to the problem of clean potting soil. Watering of the potted plants should be done with care to avoid splashing of possibly contaminated soil from pot to pot. A fine sprinkler would be best.

That, in outline, is the best procedure we can recommend at present. As I mentioned above, serious trouble with nematodes does not appear suddenly, even though it sometimes seems as if it does. Heavy infections nearly always start somewhere with light ones which go unnoticed, often for years. I would not expect the above procedures to be 100% effective, but they should keep the infection light if repeated often enough. By that, I mean that the plants should be produced in groups with the groups kept separated and the clean-up procedure repeated after each group.

I think that is important, so I want to emphasize it. After each lot of leaves has been rooted and potted, the rooting bench should be cleaned down to the bare boards, allowed to dry and refilled with clean vermiculite. The old vermiculite should be taken out of the house. It is very probable that it has a light infestation which will build up to a heavy one if it is used over and over again. Similarly, the bench on which the plants are grown should be cleaned up after every batch of plants. If it is covered with sand, the sand will become infested sooner or later and pots placed on it will become infested. It must be assumed that there are always some nematodes in every lot of plants, even though they look clean on inspection. The idea is to keep them from increasing.

The greenhouse man should become thoroughly familiar with root knot so he can recognize even a light infection. The presence of the characteristic knots is a good symptom to watch for, but conspicuous knots are not always present, particularly if the infection is light. Also, soil on the roots can obscure the knots. If the roots are washed in running water, it is easier to see the knots. Also, the egg masses of root-knot nematodes are easy to see once you know what to look for. These appear as small masses clinging to the side of the root. They are about 1/32nd of an inch in diameter and usually dark brown in color so that they show up well against the light colored root. They are easily seen with a hand lens. Plants brought in from outside the greenhouse should be examined with special care and kept isolated. Certainly they should never be placed on the benches which have been cleaned, but should have a special bench. Here they should be kept in saucers if this is at all practical. Certainly the bench should have periodic clean-

ings. It can be taken for granted that a certain proportion of the plants obtained for propagation purposes are infected.

Most of the growers with whom we are familiar had African violets from leaf cutting stage to flowering salable plants growing in the same house. Such practice allows full opportunity for perpetuating an infestation. The cleaning operation would be benefited if the leaves and small plants could be grown in a separate house by different personnel than those handling the more mature plants.

To summarize, it is fairly easy to keep nematode troubles from becoming serious. It is difficult or impossible to salvage infected plants, though these may be used as a source of leaves for rooting provided proper precautions are observed. Once a house is infested, it can be cleaned up (by sections if necessary) by the simple expedient of clearing the benches and allowing them to dry thoroughly. In the clean up, steam or hot water can be used to advantage, but are not strictly necessary. No program will be 100% effective under commercial conditions. Sooner or later (usually sooner) the house will become infected, so the only safe thing to do is to assume that it is infected, grow the plants in separated lots, and to clean up after every lot.

I hope that this is what you want. If it is not, or if any points need more explanation, do not hesitate to write. We would also appreciate suggestions from your experience. We do not have opportunity to see many commercial operations and often do not know what the greenhouse owner would consider practical or impractical.

Yours truly,
A. L. Taylor
Nematologist

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Select Christmas gift violets from thousands of blooming plants. Over 100 varieties, including choice plants of many of the newest introductions.

Our plants are all top quality, clean and in vigorous growing condition. We do no retail shipping, but visitors are welcome. Open every day, including Sundays.

Dealers may have our wholesale price list on request

ALL PLANTS STATE INSPECTED

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HAMMOND, INDIANA

Three blocks west of U. S. 41 and 1 block south of Ind. 312



The Homing Pigeon

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Pigeons:

When you read this, winter will be with us, with all its ice and snow. That is rather a pleasant thought, as the thermometer is registering a hot 98° today (August 28). I'm sure that my Saintpaulias would complain too, if they could -- because, they too, have that wilted look.

We have had a very busy summer, building a new plant house that will be lighted with fluorescent light. Not too large -- but, large enough for a tired old hint hunter to care for.

I am sure that my plants will be grateful for a permanent home, as they have been shifted from "pillar to post" ever since the fire. To all of you who sent me leaves and plants, thanks a million! I appreciated every one of them.

Keep those hints coming and a Happy Holiday to each and every one of you.

Your Hint Hunter,
Helen Pochurek

If the summer sun is too strong for your plants -- try coating the windows with Bon Ami. It will reduce the light, but not darken the window too much.

Try setting a pan of water in front of an electric fan to help increase the humidity.

Mr. R. A. Miller, Independence Kans., Unit 63



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road
Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon
News Editor

Perchance you have a small vase or tea cup that you would like to use for a violet plant. Line your chosen container with aluminum foil, being careful not to tear it or break the foil. Place some charcoal in the bottom of the foil and spoon in your good soil. Place the plant in position and firm well. A very fibrous soil, containing lots of peat moss is best for this type of planting. Water every seven to fourteen days, depending on the size of your container. I have a lovely plant of Innocence in a squat black container. It is in full bloom and the contrast of dark green, white bloom and black vase is very lovely.

Mrs. V. A. Leeper, McKeesport Pa., Unit 63

To make a window sill wider -- I place a very heavy cardboard on same, cutting it an inch or two wider than sill. I cover it with a dark green plastic, that is similar to oilcloth. Stagger the pots with the larger ones in the back, so the cardboard will not tip. My plants had a tendency to "hug the pot" on the white window sills, but since using the dark green plastic, I have eliminated this trouble.

Nellie Frye, Springfield, Pa., Unit 90

Chimney soot is a valuable gardening aid. A sprinkling on the soil around your plants will give them a boost. Scratch it in lightly. Episcias especially, seem to love it as the leaves take on a rich deep hue and growth is increased.

Your Hint Hunter

I had trouble with African violet seedlings damping off when I used vermiculite. Now I use this method and have no failures. Tie a strip of heavy aluminum foil about an inch wide, around the top of a brick to hold the rooting medium. It should extend above the top of the brick. Place a layer of sterilized humus on the brick and then a layer of pulverized sphagnum moss. Place the brick in a pan of water till the top is just moist. Then plant your seeds and keep the brick in water, so that medium will not dry out. After germination, I water occasionally with a weak fertilizer solution. Transplant when large enough to handle.

Nellie Frye, Springfield, Pa., Unit 90

This method of growing young plants has been most successful for me. It is easy too. Take a small plastic bowl and punch holes in the bottom with a hot ice pick. Insert a wick about

as thick as a piece of twine. Twine or glass fibre may be used. Fill bowl one half full with vermiculite. Water until it drips off ends of wick. Cut leaves with an inch and a half stem (with a razor blade). Dip in a mixture of equal parts of Fermate and Rootone. Shake off excess and insert one half inch deep -- resting them on edge of bowl. Set on a jar and keep water in bottom container until young plants appear. I very seldom have a loss with this method.

Carrie Mae Marks, Buffalo, N. Y., Unit 55

In my basement plant room, I use aluminum foil on my shelves to reflect light. I also make screens of aluminum foil to place around my tables. These are hung from the ceiling in such a manner as to allow the air to circulate around both top and bottom. In this way -- none of my lighting is wasted.

Thelma Delgado, Seed Sowers Pigeon

S. orbicularis (species) just can't take too much moisture. They like a gravelly soil that drains quickly. It will also pollinate quicker than any variety that I know of. It's my favorite of all the species.

Helen Pochurek



IVA WOODS

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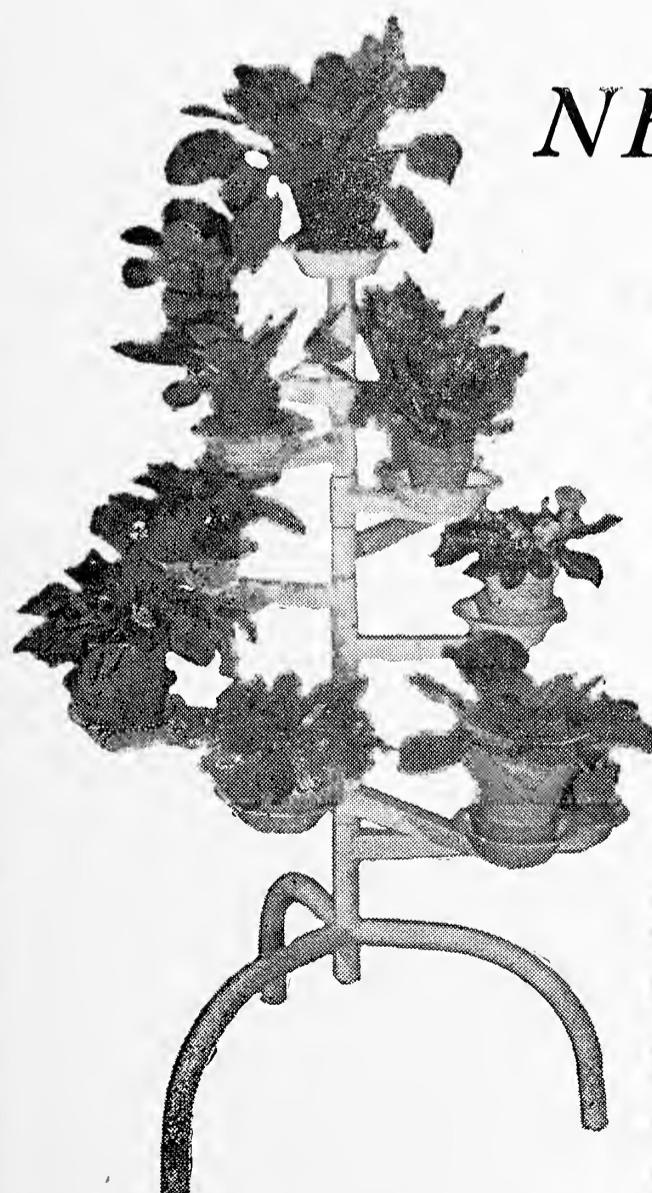
Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

Greetings:

We have many new friends in our department, and their enthusiasm and interest is a help to us. We are winging our way back and forth now with very few holding it past time. I am continually receiving new names and so can fill all vacancies as they occur, so write to me. I appreciate all your help in letting me know of the changes in your group. At this time of year we appreciate the beauty of our plants, and the friendships we make mean much to us so let's spread the good cheer to more friends each week.

**Sincerely,
Iva Woods**



NEW PLANT STAND

- All steel welded. Especially Nice for African Violets.
- Presented First Time at National African Violet Convention, Hotel Sherman, Chicago.
- Will Not Tip or Tilt!
- Holds 11 plants, 10 on revolving arms.

Attractive and sturdy heavy gauge steel with green or white enamel finish. Easily dismantled for cleaning. Ten revolving arms tapering from 6 to 12 inches, allowing easy positioning of plants. Permits air and sun exposure from top to bottom. Convenient 40-inch height . . . suitable for plants of all kinds.

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HIGHLAND BLUE JEWEL CLUB

Mrs. Frank Thill, Pres.

1560 Hartford

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Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman
is:

MRS. E. G. MAGILL

707 S. Fourth Street

Aurora, Illinois

YOUR HELP NEEDED

As I chat with you for the last time through the Affiliated Chapters column I am sending out an S. O. S. for your help in another department. HAVE YOU HEARD! THERE IS TO BE A BUYERS GUIDE section in our Magazine? Uh, huh, there is . . .

"What is that?" you ask, a bit surprised. Lend an ear: Do you want to know what you are buying? The Buyer's Guide will help you do just that. It is to be a SELECTED LIST of Saintpaulias, upon which a committee will put its stamp of approval, that they are NEW, ABSOLUTELY DIFFERENT, or IMPROVED.

A tremendous amount of ground work is necessary before this department can function properly and to the best advantage. That is where YOU come in. In exchange for your assistance I will give you a bit of interesting program material. To be sure, your calendars were made up a year in advance but how about a little side project? Say ten or fifteen minutes of each meeting is set apart for "They Are the Same To Us," or "What is the Difference?" or whatever title you choose to use. During these few minutes members of your Chapter will report African violets in their collection with different names but so near alike an amateur, I mean a rank amateur or perhaps novice would be the better word, can not tell them apart. For example: Mentor Boy, Purple Prince and Red Bird are growing side by side on my shelves. Nine out of ten who come in say, "Why Ada, these are all just alike." Oh! you say there will be arguments

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Shiloh, N. J.

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UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Mrs. H. L. Morris, Treas.

1239 Watchung Ave.

Plainfield, N. J.

to that. Fine, without a doubt they will be the kind of arguments that will help us compile the list of African violets you have been looking for. Also, when you see an African violet in a show or on some other growers window sill just like your White Hybrid under the name of Blue Bi-Boy or Blue Eyed Beauty jot the news down for your next program.

Have one of your officers keep an accurate written record of these reports. Once each month or every three months submit that list to me.

With your faithful co-operation, every African Violet Society of America member can function as a member of the Buyer's Guide Committee then we will have finer African violets for our window gardens.

REMINDERS

1. Please make out the Affiliated Chapter Membership Report (green form) for New, Renewal and Chapter memberships. If you do not have them, request them from your Affiliated Chapter Chairman, Mrs. Samuel Rowe (Grace) 749 Columbia Street, Aurora, Illinois.
2. Send ALL Affiliated Chapter material to your Affiliated Chapter Chairman. That means Constitution and By-laws, membership

and officers' list, Affiliated Chapter Membership Reports with check for same, everything that pertains to Affiliation. If you send it to any other officer they have to send it to your Chapter Chairman for approval.

3. I should like to suggest that each Chapter make the Affiliated page a part of its program each quarter. As we grow and get BOTH feet on the ground we hope to be of more and more service to the local groups. That service will come to you through the pages of this Magazine. Therefore, a group study will keep every one well informed.

Now as I take leave of this department I can not begin to tell you how much pleasure it has been working with each of you. Childhood acquaintances have been renewed and hosts of new friends made. Keep up the good work we have started.

It is my pleasant privilege to introduce my good friend and very capable club co-worker, now president of the Admiral Branch African Violet Society of Aurora as your Affiliated Chapter Chairman, Mrs. Samuel Rowe, (Grace). I know of no better hands to entrust you to. I'm sure you will learn to love her just as I do.

THE END

GENE'S SCRAP BOOK

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

Did you see Gene's Scrap Book at our National African Violet Convention which was held in Nashville, Tennessee on April 30th, May 1st, and 2nd? If you failed to do so you surely missed a wonderful treat.

Miss Genevieve Boggs of Nashville has been gathering pictures, newspaper clippings, articles from African violet magazines and many other sources for her African Violet Scrap Book. The book is approximately 15 inches wide by 20 inches long and it is a fascinating history of our African Violet Society of America, Inc. and contains articles by many of the Affiliated Clubs throughout the United States.

This is a true fact . . . Gene (as we all so fondly call her) wrote me in the Spring of 1952, asking that I give her some information about our local violet club which I very happily did in the form of a Play in Four Acts titled "African Violets, Unlimited." She told me that she wanted to have information from two or three clubs in every state in the U. S. as well as Canada. Fifty or seventy-five pages are in cello-

phane binders -- the hand color prints are very pretty indeed and the information so cleverly assembled, naturally Gene could not begin to get all the information she had accumulated in this one big scrap book.

Gene's Scrap Book was open to the club members to thumb through it . . . it was placed on a card table in the corner at the beginning of the Arrangement Section and though I noticed quite a good many people pausing to look at it still I believe most people passed it up in the belief they should not muse through it . . . Oh, but they were mistaken and I am just sorry they missed that treat. It is a wonderful ambition Gene has and she is to be congratulated on the splendid work she has done in compiling this book.

What do you say? ? ? Let's extend an invitation to Gene to bring along her Scrap Book each year to our National Conventions so we can look it over and see what's been added. More than likely we will find something interesting in it about our own club.

THE END



Finally a tiny green mass appeared on the vermiculite and soon this took the shape of wee leaves.

R SEEDLINGS - FOR TRANQUILLITY AND PEACE OF MIND

Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

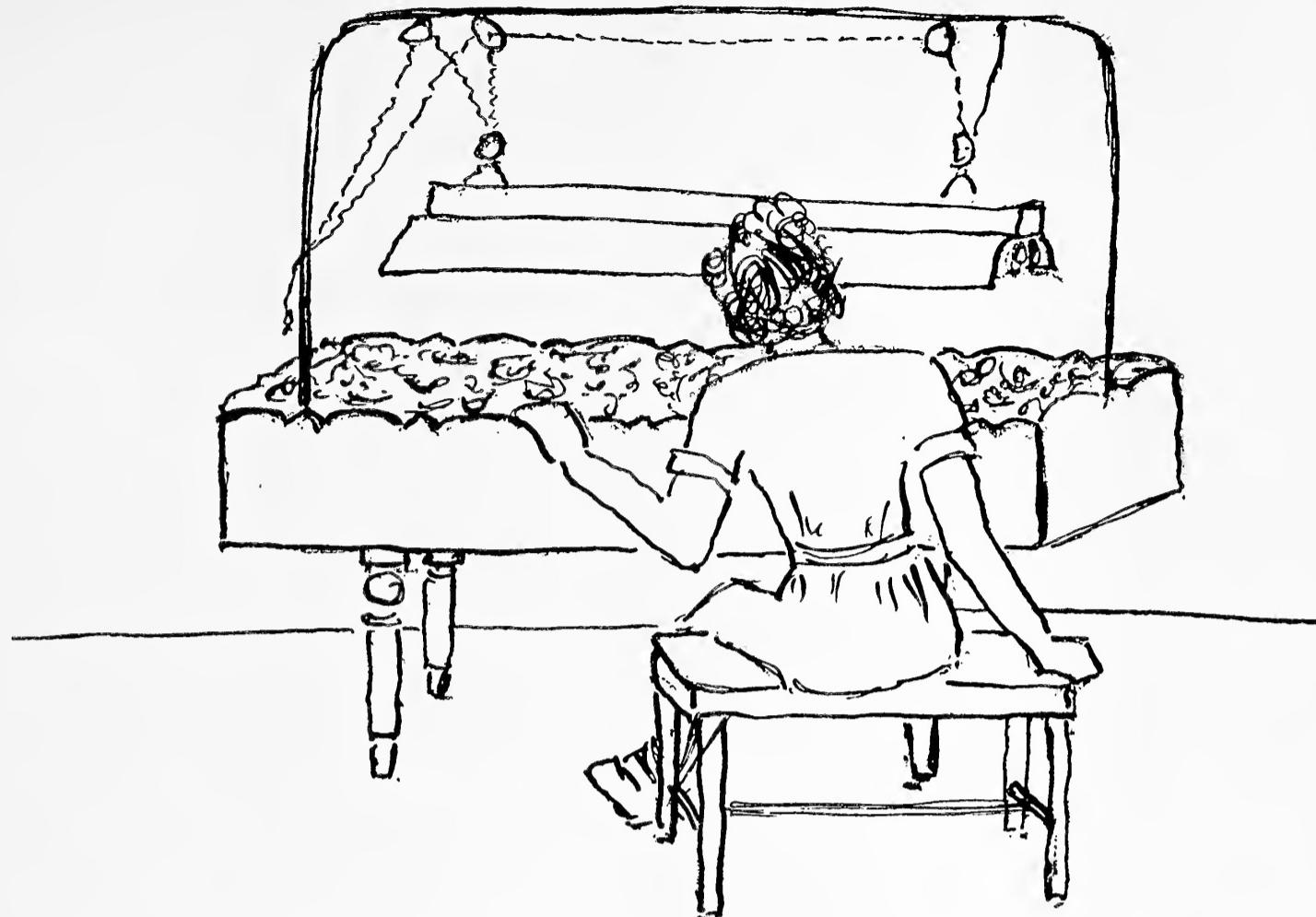
Yes, African violets can be exciting. I have found them so. But for real tranquillity, try seedlings. Let me explain . . .

A little over a year ago, I had a serious spinal operation. When I came home from the hospital, I practiced walking. Yes -- walking. My legs had to learn to support my body and carry it forward as I willed. It was tiring and nerve wracking. The small step between my dining room and my living room was a major hazard. From tearing around at top speed, I was now reduced to a maddening slow motion, each step taken with care. My mind raced around while my body rested.

That's how a seed pod was born. To amuse myself, I pollinated a blossom. As the pod grew fat, (and I grew stronger) I watched it daily, and thought about the miracle of tiny seeds forming. When it was finally ripe and ready to plant it seemed incredible that there was life in those specks resembling black pepper. Finally a tiny green "mass" appeared on the vermiculite. Soon this took the shape of wee leaves. I watched this bowl with absorbed fascination. I knew each tiny sprout -- which one had grown a bit more -- and which was the new one, just germinated. It was a wonderful pastime. Transplanting time came. As I handled each one, it was hard to believe that one day the diminutive seedling on the toothpick would be a big blooming plant. They grew by leaps and bounds. Now they are all in two inch pots and still hold my interest for an hour at a time.



To amuse myself I pollinated a blossom.



I sit and watch two hundred babies growing . . .

Days of discouragement and muscular discomfort, find me sitting by the table of seedlings (about two hundred of them). I look and wonder -- how could so many plants come from such a wee pod? And how can there be such a variety of foliage? Why is one so ebony dark and velvety while another is so shiny, quilted and ruffled? Will this plain flat leaf produce a bloom more lovely than this ruffled leaf with a red throat? So quiet hours pass and I find, when I leave the young seedlings, my mind is tranquil as a still pond. The worries and discouragement and vexing problems have vanished. I can't sit and watch two hundred babies growing quietly yet steadily, each one expressing a personality -- and still remember my own problems.

When one's mind is filled with the miracle of an infinitesimal seed growing into a sturdy young plant there is room for little else. Some day before too long I may be travelling around at top speed again -- no time and no need to rest

beside the seedlings. By then they will be grown up and perhaps gone to another home. However, the prescription I discovered for tranquillity of mind impressed me so that I now have ten fat seed pods growing and developing. I won't ever be without this prescription again -- if I can help it.

HOW TO POLLINATE

Our method of pollination here at Cricken Farm is most unorthodox. The pollen sac is opened with a razor blade, permitting the pollen to fall on its own petals. Then the petals are carried to the second blossom, which receives the pollen by the simple method of touching the pistil to it. It always works, so why complicate a simple process?

THE END

African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors.

Complete information for judges and holding shows, scale of points, as well as valuable information for everyone entering plants in a show.

75¢ each mailing included.

RUTH G. CAREY

706 Garden Ave.
FOUNTAIN CITY, TENN.

GREETINGS

MAY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
BRING YOU PEACE, AND HAPPINESS
FOR THE NEW YEAR
Ferne for African Violets

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REPORT OF JUDGING SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

Ruth G. Carey, Fountain City, Tenn.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 30, 1953
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE SOCIETY:

Scale of points for judging year books:

I	Artistic Value -- (Beauty, neatness, size 5 x 8 or less)	15
II	Cover -- (Attractive, appropriate design, complete identification, giving club name, town, state and year)	15
III	Arrangement of Material -- (Club officers, committees, members names and addresses, by-laws, projects)	25
IV	Program Material -- (Program outlining propagation, culture, hybridization, shows and judging African violets)	45
		100 points

That a judging school be held in connection with the Convention Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in 1954.

Judges whose certificates have expired may renew them at local judging schools or at the National judging school for refresher courses. If a refresher course is taken before expiration date of certificate, it will be dated for three years hence.

Groups desiring schools must have their application in to the National chairman at least two

weeks before date of school, for approval in order for school to be honored. Teachers must submit for approval the exact mimeographed questions in the order they will be given to the students on the examination, also the name of the group desiring the school and the chairman in charge of the school.

Teachers must check African Violet Society of America, Inc. membership cards of every student taking courses and examination at each school held, to ascertain if they are members in good standing. The names, addresses and grades of all students taking examination must be sent to the National chairman.

Since the judging school held in Dayton, Ohio, April 1951, the following have been held:

Memphis, Tenn.	November 1951
Dayton, Ohio	November 1951
California	February 1952
Webster Groves, Mo.	October 1952
Syracuse, N. Y.	October 1952
High Point, N. C.	November 1952
Schenectady, N. Y.	November 1952
Oak Ridge, Tenn.	November 1952
St. Joseph, Mo.	September 1952
Pittsburgh, Pa.	February 1953
Norfolk, Va.	March 1953
Little Rock, Ark.	March 1953

That a schedule for future amateur convention shows be adopted, subject to minor changes which will be submitted to the National African Violet Society of America, Inc. chairman of staging shows for approval.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

We are introducing a New Carolyn K. Rector origination -- **ESTRELLITA** -- a Grotei-hybrid of the hanging basket or climber type. A strong grower with excellent foliage. Blossom is a glistening white with sides of petals blue-violet. A beautiful star. This should be extra nice on a small trellis. We are bookings orders now for delivery in rotation and as weather permits.

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NO LEAVES OR CUTTINGS

Also several other NEW varieties including RED APPLE. A sport of Appleblossom having Wine Red blossoms with two upper petals darker. Propagates true.

Plants \$2.50 each. Both above varieties for \$5.00
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Rich in Plant Vitamins

6 oz. bottle added to water

makes 42 quarts

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QUALIFIED JUDGES

Ruth G. Carey, Chairman

JUDGES

Judging School Certificates issued at Portland, Oregon, July 21, 1953. Expire July 21, 1956.

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Artis M. Baylor, Rt. 4, Box 181, Bothell, Wash.
Mrs. Sophia Baker, 2733 S. E. 35th Pl., Portland
Mrs. Wilson A. Bauman, Rt. 1, Box 266

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Miss Arnetta Bjornson, 1724 S. W. Broadway
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Mrs. H. Botsford, 1114 N. E. 81st St.
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Mrs. Gladys Curteman, 348 Parkway St.
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Doris J. Farrell, 7911 S. E. Knight, Portland

Mrs. T. E. Fenolio, 1115 N. E. 70th Ave.
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Mrs. Ben Gerlach, 7909 W. 31st Ave., Portland 19
Mrs. B. E. Gleason, Rt. 2, Box 444

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Frank W. Spellman, 3537 N. E. 76th Ave.
Portland 13

Mae Spellman, 6515 N. E. Couch, Portland 15
Mrs. F. I. Sprague, Rt. 1, Box 1622

Redmond, Wash.

Marguerite T. Standrud, 3225 S. E. 33rd Ave.
Portland 2

Mrs. Georgie E. Ward, 6106 S. E. 13th Ave.
Portland 2

Mrs. Jack Williams, 825 E. 25th
Seattle 55, Wash.

TEACHERS:

Mrs. Ben Gerlach, 7909 W. 31st Ave., Portland 19

ORDER NOW

SMITH'S HANDY AFRICAN VIOLET LABEL
10¢ per dozen in five dozen lots — postpaid
WRITE FOR QUANTITY PRICES

SMITH POTTING SOIL COMPANY
2513 E. 19th St., Dept. A

Tulsa, Okla.

WINDOVER VIOLET POTS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

Medium red color -- New stepped design as pictured -- Unequalled for quality and light weight. Edges specially treated to protect stems and leaves of your plants. Customers say: "I like them better than any I have ever seen!"

1 3/4 inch starting pots	— 36 for \$2.20
2 inch starting pots	— 30 for \$2.20
2 1/4 inch starting pots	— 24 for \$2.20
3 inch semi-squatty pots	— 14 for \$2.20
3 inch squatty pots	— 14 for \$2.20
4 inch squatty pots	— 10 for \$2.20
5 inch squatty pots	— 6 for \$2.20

All pots listed are stepped design except 5" squatty.
All have treated edges.

WE REPLACE POTS BROKEN IN SHIPMENT
Write for Quantity Prices

WINDOVER POTTING SOIL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Sterilized with LARVACIDE. Contains 45% flaky leafmold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Write for Quantity Prices.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85

COARSE VERMICULITE (ZONOLITE)

Preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves.

8 quarts \$1.00 — 24 quarts \$2.00

POT LABELS

4 1/2 in. Lifetime white plastic — 75 for \$1.00
500 for \$5.00

4 in. Smooth wooden, painted — 100 for \$.75
500 for \$3.00

EVERMARK LABEL PENCILS, made especially for writing on all plant labels 20¢ each.

EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER

WINDOVER • • Inglefield, Indiana

GLOXINIAS

AND AFRICAN VIOLETS

BELONG TO THE SAME FAMILY!
HYBRID GLOXINIA SEED

200 Seed Packet \$1.00
(Gloxinias grow well under fluorescent lights)

CATALOG ON REQUEST

We also grow over 100 varieties of
AFRICAN VIOLETS
Visitors Welcome

ALBERT H. BUELL

Gloxinia Specialist

Eastford, Conn.

Dept. V

Overwatering Is A Cultural Fault Akin To Overpotting Violets

Irene Pendleton, Kansas City, Mo.

An African violet, as do other plants, receives air through the sides of a porous pot, provided you give it that privilege. Do not subject it to a glazed pot, which will keep the soil water logged and prevent air from getting to the roots.

Also if your African violet has been over-potted, the root system is not large enough to use up the moisture in a couple of days—and the roots begin to die.

When you have heaped insult upon insult, the poor plant gives up and passes out of the picture. The first indication will be limp leaves—and then it is usually too late to do much about it.

An occasional leaf collapsed on the rim of the pot should cause no alarm, as in all plants the lower leaves eventually give way for newer ones. But when six or eight leaves become limp there is cause for concern. That is almost a certain sign of too much watering.

Naturally a dry plant also will wilt, but you must discriminate between the two. If in doubt water the limp plant heavily and if it remains limp there is just one thing to do. Open the win-

dow wide and toss it out, unless you wish to pamper it for months upon months; and in my estimation it is not worth it.

Plants may be watered from either the top or bottom at the same time. I advise watering from the bottom most of the time, with an occasional top watering in order to wash the salts and chemicals back into the soil.

Top watering alone will cause the roots to grow in the upper half of the pot unless you are sure of complete soil saturation each time, which usually is impossible.

Bottom watering forces roots to grow downward in their quest for water. Thus a better root system is formed.

One-fourth cup of warm water to a 3-inch pot usually is adequate to saturate the soil. Do not water again until the soil on top is perfectly dry.

It is folly to water plants on certain days whether they need water or not. Surely you are not unkind to yourself and drink at stipulated times.

THE END

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL from NAOMI

Our big news for 1954
— the **ALBINO GIRLS** —
Exclusive Introduction

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS Brockport, New York

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY AND FLORIFEROUS
NEW YEAR
REINHARDT'S
AFRICAN VIOLETS

Beautiful plants displayed in pleasant surroundings
AT PRICES THAT WILL PLEASE YOU
Leaves, plants in all sizes, featuring the new introductions as they become available.
Located on W. Seneca Tpk., Routes 20 N and 175, 2 miles West of Syracuse, N. Y.
— NO SHIPPING —

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
From
THE VIOLET HOUSE

828 Kenmore Blvd. Akron 14, Ohio
Still featuring leaf cuttings from "The Newest of the New and Best of the Old" African violets. We will have all the new varieties from Granger Gardens, Ulery's, J. A. Peterson and Son, Fischers, Tinari's and many others. Send along stamped self-addressed envelope for price list.

E. PEARLE TURNER

"VIOLETS all over the House"

(as featured in November 1953 issue
Woman's Day Magazine)
Largest selection of newest introductions
and old favorites in all Canada
Stamp for Leaf and Plant Catalogue
YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT
MARY HAMILTON'S
VIOLET ROOMS AND NURSERY
2236 Culp St. Niagara Falls, Canada

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period June 25, 1953 to September 1, 1953.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Blue Albino Girl 6-29-53

Mrs. Annie Ostolski
Shisler Road
Clarence, New York

Colossal 6-26-53

Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

Colonial Girl 6-26-53

Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

Dainty Betty 6-30-53

Mrs. R. W. Niedert
622 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois

Fascination 6-30-53

Mrs. R. W. Niedert
622 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois

Francis 6-30-53

Mrs. Helen Meyette
3867 West 133 Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Griffen's Mr. Big 6-30-53

Griffen's Flowers
301 Broadway
Hannibal, Missouri

Hortense Mitchell 6-28-53

Carolyn K. Rector
P. O. Box 94
San Pedro, California

Navy Belle 7-16-53

Mrs. Frazer Wadenstorfer
26570 Drake Road
Farmington, Michigan

Navy Queen 7-16-53

Mrs. Frazer Wadenstorfer
26570 Drake Road
Farmington, Michigan

Pacific Shadows 6-28-53

Carolyn K. Rector
P. O. Box 94
San Pedro, California

Red Albino Girl 6-29-53

Mrs. Annie Ostolski
Shisler Road
Clarence, New York

Rippling Geneva 7-2-53

John R. Gent
595 Vosburg Road
Webster, New York

Temptation 6-17-53

Mrs. E. L. Perdue
Fuqua Road, Route 1
Donelson, Tennessee

Vanity 7-3-53

Spoutz African Violet Greenhouses
34365 Moravian
Fraser, Michigan

Yellow Brown Boy Select 1-12-53

The Select Violet House
2023 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

Zelma 6-28-53

Mrs. W. H. Ransone
1143 Avenue Hermosa
West Palm Beach, Florida

PART II

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period.

Bagdad	Pagan Queen
Blue Burma	Pink Mist
Blue Charm	Rambler Rose
Blue Sheen	Red Morning
Blue Tango	Rippling Orchid
Candy Kisses	Sady
Caress	September Morn
Comanche	Serenade
Cotton Candy	Silver Cloud
Daybreak	Silver Queen
East Wind	Snow Bird
Echo	Snow On The Mountain
Fond Hope	Sonata
Frolic	Song In The Night
Jenny Lynn	Songstress
Jungle Queen	Southern Maid
Lullabye	Spring Glory
Majestic	Sugar 'N' Spice
Mavis	Tallyho
Me Too	Tama
Misty Tears	Tennessee Girl
Moon Gleam	Tinkle
Morning Mist	Toni
Morning Song	Tropicana
Nocturne	Valencia
Pagan	Wedding Bells
Pagan Snow	Zanzibar

BOYCE M. EDENS

Plant named in honor of Mr. Edens is now available — \$3.00 each — Leaves \$1.50 Ppd.

ST. LOUIS SHOW — I am offering a \$25.00 Cash Award for the best Boyce Edens plant in the Show. Leaves of Blush BiColor, Chieftan, \$1.00 each.

No orders less than \$3.00

MRS. SAM NICHOLS

246 Madison Blvd.

Madison, Tenn.

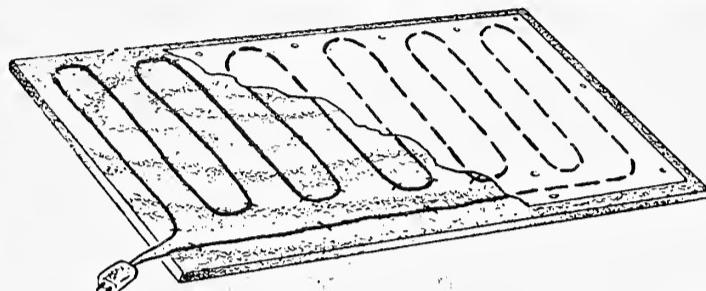


ELECTRIC HEATING CABLE

Use G-Q-QUICK HEATING CABLE to heat winter window sill garden, miniature greenhouse, aquarium, violet growing racks, hot beds, and cold frames. Will keep water pipes from freezing.

**LEAVES WILL SPROUT WEEKS SOONER
PLANTS BLOOM IN COLDEST WEATHER
VIOLETS THRIVE IN COOL BASEMENTS**

(See Mrs. Olga Witter's letter on page 57 Violet Magazine June '58)



Determine number of square feet to be heated and select cables you need. One thermostat will control several cables. Instructions with order.

A6	Cable	15 watts	1½ sq. ft.	\$1.00
B12	"	30 "	3 "	1.80
M26	"	60 "	6 "	2.80
P40	"	100 "	9 "	2.80
J56	"	140 "	14 "	3.00
S112	"	280 "	28 "	6.00
AT thermostat, will handle 1,000 watts				\$4.50

These prices Postpaid

**FREE LEAFLETS
AND PLANS FOR VIOLET GROWING RACKS AND HOT BEDS**

G-Q FIBERGLASS FOR WICK FEEDING AERATING PADS AND OTHER USES

Will Not Rot

Flower growers report amazing success when using this special G-Q fiberglass for wicks, aerating pads, lining flower boxes, planting slips and starting plants in flats. Because of its many uses it comes to you in 30 ft. by 3" rolls which you can cut to the various lengths required.

ROLL 3" x 30' ONLY \$1.00 OR 90' ROLL \$2.75

G-Q *Lifetime* PLANT MARKERS

RETAIL PRICE LIST

A—4½" Vertical Stake

75	.....	\$1.00
100	.....	1.25
500	.....	5.00

B—2" x 5" Horizontal Stake

50	.....	\$1.70
75	.....	2.00
100	.....	2.50
500	.....	10.00

C—6" Vertical Stake

50	.....	\$1.35
75	.....	1.60
100	.....	2.00
500	.....	9.00

D—2" Horizontal Tie on Tag

(Supplied with copper wires)

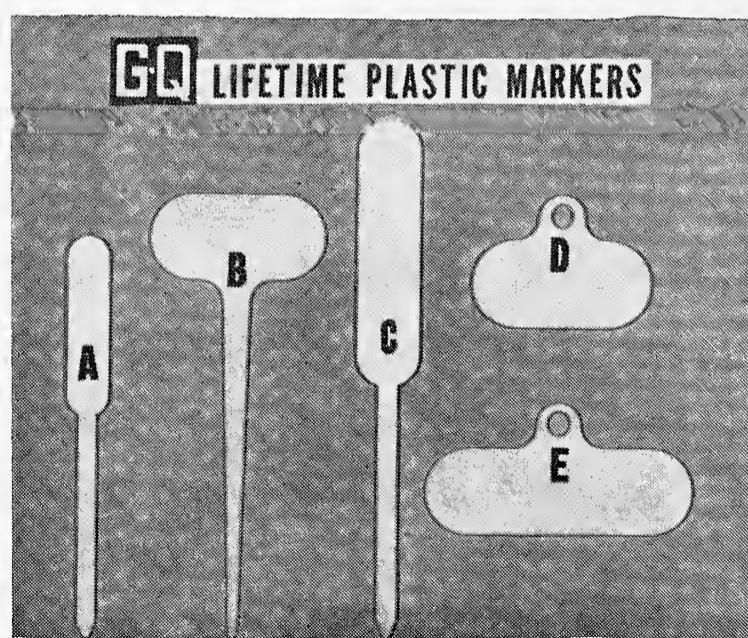
50	.....	\$1.10
75	.....	1.30
100	.....	1.65
500	.....	7.00

E—3" Horizontal Tie on Tag

(Supplied with copper wires)

50	.....	\$1.35
75	.....	1.60
100	.....	2.00
500	.....	9.00

Permanent—will not rot—vermin proof—heavy gauge, molded white plastic—write on it with ordinary pencil—easy to read.



- A. 4½" Vertical Pot Stake
- B. 2" x 5" Horizontal Pot or Border Stake
- C. 6" Vertical Pot or Border Stake
- D. 2" Horizontal Tie on Tag
- E. 3" Horizontal Tie on Tag

B is IDEAL FOR SHOW PLANTS
Guaranteed to withstand all soil and weather conditions.

G-Q-QUICK SALES

10342 Lanark Ave.

Dept. 45

DETROIT 24, MICHIGAN

DEALERS and CLUBS

Write for quantity prices on Fiberglass and Markers.

Planting By The Moon

Ada Muir, Langley Prairie, Canada

Those who have studied it know that just as phases of the Moon influence our attitude towards each other so do they have a bearing on all sentient things.

Here is one experience of the writer of about thirty years ago. A member of the family offered to make holes for the spuds and we told him the Moon was in Gemini and it was the light of the Moon, that is, between New and Full Moon. His reply was to the effect that if they were in the ground they would be ready for when the Moon got to the right place.

We gave in to the extent of having half of the potato patch spudded and after the Full Moon put the rest in while the Moon was in an Earth sign, for we use the period from the Full to the New for crops that produce their value under the ground.

The result of this planting was that the potatoes first planted expressed themselves above ground, stems reaching four feet in length and little potatoes at every joint but under ground the potatoes were no larger than walnuts. The later planting, in harmony with the Moon's position for root crops, produced very small tops but a wealth of potatoes under ground.

Crops which produce above ground for our use or pleasure should be sown, planted, pruned or transplanted while the Moon is moving from the New to the Full. This applies to the African violet and all flowers and flowering shrubs as well as to the salad vegetables, but if these need curing of any complaint it is better to use the period known as the Dark of the Moon, that is from the Full Moon to the oncoming New Moon.

These are New Moon dates for 1954: January 4, April 3, May 2, June 1st, June 30, July 29, August 28, September 26, November 25, December 25.

There are excellent days for planting from these dates for fourteen days but avoid planting within three days of the Eclipses which are evening of January 4, June 30, early morning, December 25 early morning.

Best planting dates in these periods are: January 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18. February 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14. March 5, 8, 9, 12, 13. April 4, 5, 8, 9. May 2, 3, 6, 7, 16. June 2, 3, 12, 13. July 9, 10. August 5, 6, 7. September 2, 3, 11, 29, 30. October 9, 10, 27, 28. November 5, 6, 9. December 2, 3, 4, 7, 8.

Some prefer that the Moon is in Libra for beauty of foliage and these dates are: January 24, 25. February 20, 21. March 19, 20, 21. April 16, 17. May 13, 14. June 9, 10. July 7, 8. August 3, 4, 30, 31. September 27, 28. October 24, 25. November 20, 21. December 17, 18, 19.

AFTER THE FULL MOON, do any tidying up of your plants, such as removing unsightly leaves, making a more harmonious arrangement of leaves, stems, etc. adding a little top soil if possible, fertilizing, spraying.

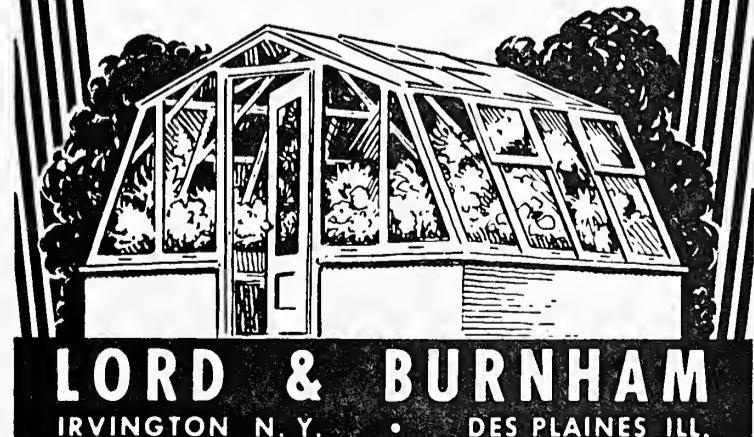
The Full Moon dates are: January 18, February 17, March 19, April 18, May 17, June 16, July 15, August 14, September 12, October 12, November 10 and December 9.

THE END

Orlyt

ENJOY AFRICAN
VIOLETS AT
THEIR BEST

Here's the answer to your dream of a thoroughly well-designed and constructed greenhouse that gives professional results. Precision-built by Lord & Burnham, the world's largest manufacturers of estate and florist greenhouses. \$395 buys the 10 by 11 ft. Orlyt pictured. Others from \$175 to \$780. Choice of slanted or straight sides and Lean-to greenhouses. Foundation, benches, automatic heat and ventilation extra, but reasonably priced like the greenhouse.
WRITE FOR FREE BOOKLET NO. 59



LORD & BURNHAM
IRVINGTON N.Y. • DES PLAINES ILL.



Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1; for June, March 1st.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Evening Saintpaulia Society of Chicago was organized April 21, 1953. There are now eighteen members, sixteen of whom belong to the National Society. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Ray Miller
Vice-Pres.,	Miss Betty Boaz
Treasurer,	Mrs. Bida Robbins
Secretary,	Mrs. Norma Johnson

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles African Violet Society ended its fifth year with the installation of the following officers:

President,	Miss Margaret Garbutt
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Jack Gosmann
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Mac B. Pearson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Margaret Goehler
Treasurer,	Mrs. Edna C. Klitten
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Charlotte Berry
Mem. Secy.,	Mrs. Norman Cobb
Director-at-Large,	Mrs. C. H. Harris

At this meeting it was reported that the membership was one hundred twelve. But prouder still is this club of the fact that former members have organized seven other clubs in Southern California, several even larger than the Los Angeles Club.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, retiring president, installed the new officers by presenting each with a beautifully bound copy of the Club's By-Laws joined with purple and gold ribbon, which she explained indicated the close harmonious attitude of the Board in its efforts to serve the club. Then she quoted the often used poem to the membership of "Being a doer and not a joiner."

Closer harmony is being worked out by our president Miss Garbutt with the other clubs of Southern California with a President's Tea in October.

Mrs. Jack Gosmann, Mrs. Edna Klitten, Mrs. Margaret Goehler, Mrs. Mac B. Pearson, Mrs. Charlotte Berry, Mrs. Norman Cobb, Miss Margaret Garbutt.



BUCKEYE LAKE OHIO

The Buckeye Lake African Violet Society of Buckeye Lake, Ohio elected the following officers for 1953:

President,	Mrs. Albert Baumunk
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ethel Prescott
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. N. Rayburn
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. S. R. Hartman
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Iva Bethard
Treasurer,	Mrs. Maude Elliott
Reporter,	Mrs. Bannie Gill

The Club was organized on June 16, 1952 and now has twelve members, with each one belonging to the National Society. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members.

NORFOLK VIRGINIA

The Pioneer African Violet Society of Norfolk, Virginia was organized on May 15, 1952. In October of 1952 the club sponsored a display booth in the Tri-County Fair held at the Princess Anne Speedway.

On May 16 and 17, 1953 they held their first African Violet Show. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. R. W. Schoolcraft, the show was held in the showroom of the Colonial Chevrolet Corporation in downtown Norfolk. There were two hundred ninety-two plants and thirty-eight arrangements entered. Forty-one guests signed the guest book.

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Blooming Plants and Leaves
WRITE FOR LIST
MADISON GARDENS
R. D. No. 1 MADISON, OHIO

On July 9, 1953 election of officers was held with the following officers elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. A. L. Lupia
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Helen Morgan
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. W. M. Savedge
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. J. T. Bradbury
Treasurer,	Mrs. R. W. Schoolcraft

Meetings are held in the evenings, on the second Wednesday of each month.

SPRINGFIELD PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania held its last meeting of 1952 and 1953 on June 2, with a luncheon at the Plaza Inn, Lansdownes, with Mrs. Ernest Clarkson of Havertown, the hostess. Highlights of the Nashville African Violet Convention were given by Mrs. Howard Morris of Drexel Hill and Mrs. Ralph Frye of Springfield. The Club, as a group, attended the Salem County African Violet Show at Woodstown, New Jersey in place of a May meeting. The Club's gavel decorated with white and green ribbon and a spray of white violets, was given the incoming president, Mrs. Donald Tabor, by the retiring president, Mrs. Ralph Frye, who was presented with a copper and brass watering can as a retiring gift.

Mrs. Leonard Becker, the Founder of the Club was the recipient of a card shower on the 24th of April, the fifth Anniversary of the Club.

PLANTS SEEDS SUPPLIES
FREE CATALOG
YOARS HOUSE PLANT NURSERY
BUNKER HILL, INDIANA
Closed on Sunday

AFRICAN VIOLETS AND SUPPLIES

"Everything to help you grow better African Violets!"

Plastic plant markers
Plastic and clay pots (Standard or squatty)
Plant Foods or Fertilizers
GOLDEN African Violet Soil (sterile)
GOLDEN All Purpose Potting Soil
GOLDEN Rooting Medium
Vermiculite Perlite
Peat and Peat Moss
Leafmold

Dusts and Sprays
Fluorescent lights and Supplies (Just plug them into your outlet)
Seeds and seedlings

The newest and best varieties as they become available.

Columbine Blue (Spring 1954)
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GREENHOUSES FARMS, INC.
P. O. Box 388
GOLDEN, COLORADO

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
VIOLET LOVERS EVERYWHERE

1954 will find us shipping good rooted leaves to those who are particular

Quality Plants and Leaves at our Greenhouse.

JAMES R. GILLETTE

169 Washington Circle

LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS

Revolving Spun-Aluminum

FLOWER TREES

FOR YOUR CHERISHED
AFRICAN VIOLETS
Each tray rotates freely
about center

for even sunning of plants
Made of lustrous rustproof
spun aluminum. Each tray
is waterproof and holds up
to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water. Plants
can be watered the ideal
way—from the bottom! This
tree holds up to 18 four-
inch African Violet flower
pots, yet requires only 20-
inch diameter floor space.

NEW LOW PRICES
36" high: 9" from floor to
lower tray; 9" between
trays. Each \$19.50
39" high: 12" from floor to
lower tray; 9" between
trays. Each \$20.25
42" high: 15" from floor to
lower tray; 9" between
trays. Each \$21.00
45" high: 18" from floor to
lower tray; 9" between
trays. Each \$21.70
48" high: 18" from floor to
lower tray; 10" between
trays. Each \$22.50
All trees shipped assembled
EXPRESS PREPAID

Write for free circular on WOOD Flower Trees,
SPUN ALUMINUM FLOOR LAMP Flower Trees,
and Spun Aluminum Saucers

OZARK SPUNALUM CO.
BOX 59-AJ, JACKSON, MISSOURI

AFRICAN VIOLETS
PLANTS LEAVES
We specialize in choice Western varieties
and the newer Eastern varieties as they
become available.
WRITE FOR LIST

EDENA GARDENS
461 Bridge Road Walnut Creek, California

CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA

The second annual Cedar Valley African Violet Exhibit was held on April 10, 1953 in the Cedar Rapids Public Library Auditorium, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with over eight hundred persons in attendance. Mrs. F. C. Williamson was in charge of the exhibit.

Besides the regulation tables holding exhibits of African violets, there were several unusual displays: A huge strawberry jar, standing three feet tall, holding violet plants in each of its pockets; a three-tiered lazy susan placed on a large round table that had been covered with aluminum foil, holding plants and carrying ribbon streamers, maypole fashion, from the top of the lazy susan to daintily dressed dolls, who stood on the large table holding the lazy susan; white wrought iron dining furniture set with place settings of Noritake china, Arcola design, which consists of gray background with beautiful violet motif.

An outstanding feature of the exhibit was the propagation table, which attracted tremendous attention from all who attended. This display was originated and completely furnished by Mrs. J. A. Young of Cedar Rapids. The table was complete from various ingredients of a soil mixture, to all methods of propagation, including some seed and little plantlets from seed, and plants in various stages of growth from these methods of propagation. Mrs. Young, who was in attendance at this table, was kept occupied at all times throughout the exhibit, answering the many varied and interesting questions regarding all steps of propagation.

The attendance almost tripled that of the first exhibit, proving that local exhibits do stimulate interest.

RICHMOND VIRGINIA

The Richmond African Violet Club of Richmond, Virginia held its final meeting for the season in May at the home of Mrs. George Ross. Following the business meeting and installation of officers a delicious luncheon was served. The officers elected for the next season are:

President,	Mrs. A. N. Tuttle
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. L. Mason
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. C. R. Emory
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. George Lewis
Treasurer,	Mrs. Joseph Brown

A cordial invitation is extended to out of town visitors to attend any meeting during the season from October through May. Meetings are held at the Battery Park Community, 2803 DuPont Circle, the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a. m.

WASHINGTON D. C.

The Metropolitan African Violet Club of Washington, D. C. elected the following officers:

President,
1st Vice-Pres.,
2nd Vice-Pres.,
Rec. Secy.,
Corres. Secy.,
Treasurer,

Mrs. F. H. Rosebrock
Dr. Thomas B. McKneely
Mrs. W. S. Burbank
Mrs. June Berberich
Miss Burnis Benson
Mrs. James B. Law

TWIN FALLS IDAHO

The Magic Valley Saintpaulia Club of Twin Falls, Idaho was organized in January 1952 at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Hodder. The following officers were elected and have since been re-elected to serve for 1953:

President, Mrs. Kenneth Hodder
Vice-Pres., Mrs. C. B. Requa
Secy. & Treas., Mrs. Clyde Ramsey

The constitution was adopted and the meetings to be held in the members' homes on the first Monday afternoon of each month. The membership was closed at twenty, and the Club affiliated with the National.

In June 1952 they held a display in connection with the Twin Falls Garden Club.

On May 15, 1953 the Club staged their first African violet display, entirely on their own. One hundred twenty-seven plants were displayed, including seventy-two varieties. Table settings using African violets as centerpieces were enjoyed by over two hundred persons who viewed the show.

Much comment was given on several miniature arrangements using fern and Saintpaulia blossoms.

This is the first and at the present time the only club in Idaho.

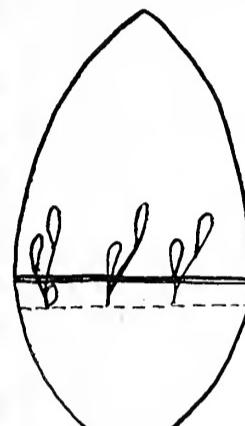


GROWERS

HYBRIDIZERS

SEED GROWERS KIT

Produce your own exciting new African Violet varieties with our fine mixture of hand-pollinated hybrid seed. It takes no longer from seed to blooming plant than to raise them from leaf-cuttings.



PLANTS

LEAVES

SEED

SEND FOR LIST

Orchard Nursery

4009 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, Calif.

SELF WATERING POTS



Here is an attractive self-watering flower pot especially designed for luxuriant growth of the African Violet. The rim is glazed to protect the plant. Water is put in the base section of the flower pot. The cut-away shows the porous watering device which allows the plant to absorb the proper amount of moisture. These two features have been tested and proved. The hand decorated floral design is available in a contrasting color of either pink, purple, dana-green, yellow, or white. This is one of the latest creations of Ro Shep of California. It is 4 3/4 inches in diameter and 4 1/4 inches in height. It may be purchased with the floral design for \$3.00 or without for only \$2.00 postage paid.



RO SHEP

SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Roseonna Chapter of the Chicago Violet Club, Chicago, Illinois, met on the first of June, 1953 at the Moraine Hotel on the Lake in Highland Park, Illinois to install the following officers:

President,	Mrs. Harry Bell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. William Brinkman
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. George Pastnack
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Henry Collignon
Treasurer,	Mrs. Allen Wideberg

This Chapter meets the second Monday of every month in the homes of the members. The June meeting was a luncheon followed by the installation.

HOBBY COTTAGE

The Finest In
REGISTERED SEEDLINGS
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A SHOW GARDEN THE YEAR AROUND. Handsome 3-tier planter fits any standard window without use of nails or screws. Turns to give all plants sunshine. Mrs. Geo. Pendleton, national authority, says: "Rotary Window Terrace is the ideal African Violet nursery. Simplifies growing rooted leaves into plants, requiring once-a-week watering, due to wick-action giving tiny plants water they need." Wrought iron shelf holds saucer and three tiers graduating 13-in., 8-in. and 4-in. diameter.

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GREENVILLE OHIO

The Treaty Towne African Violet Show was held in the basement of the Second National Bank Building in Greenville, Ohio, on May 16, 1953. The theme of the show "Fit For A Queen" was voiced by all visitors who were privileged to see the beautiful display of African violets of every description, color and arrangements.

The judges were Mrs. Ray Markley and Mrs. Clem Mendleson of Richmond, Indiana, members of the National Society. The Treaty Towne Society received the National Honor Awards.

Door prizes were won by Mrs. Rachel Netzley and Mrs. Estelle Brelsford. The door prizes were through the courtesy of the Berry's Retail Seed Store and the Greenville Seed Store. Each person who registered received a special collection of flower seeds as a gift from the Berry Seed Store.

This is the first Treaty Towne African Violet Show, the club having exhibited in 1952 with the Green Thumb Garden Club.

President,	Mrs. Daisy Christian
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Glenna McFarland
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Martha Snyder
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Amelia Meyer
Treasurer,	Mrs. Edith Witwer
Historian,	Mrs. Flossie Ware

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

The Indianapolis African Violet Club of Indianapolis, Indiana elected the following officers for the year 1953:

President,	Mrs. Chellah B. Shidaler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Nick Suding
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ralph Bidgood
Secretary,	Mrs. Irene M. Pope
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Melvin Shepherd

THE AFRICAN VIOLET of the MONTH!

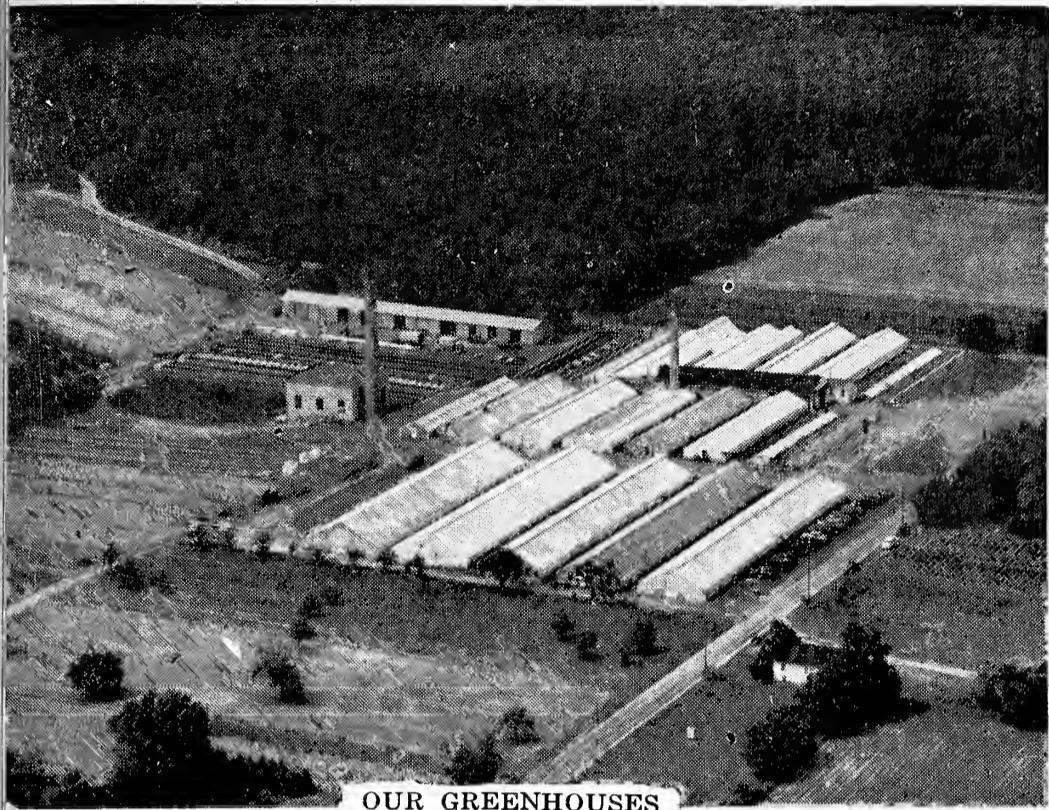
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10 plants in one year for \$10.00 postpaid

For the ADVANCED GROWERS:
6 plants NOT in your collection
for \$10.00 postpaid

Send \$10.00 and your list of plants in your collection. We will ship plants as the weather permits throughout 1954, and will select newer and better varieties not on your list.

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(West of Arvada on Highway 72)



OUR GREENHOUSES

Christwas Greetings

And a Happy New Year!

Sincere Best Wishes to Our Many Friends in the N. A. V. S. —
from all of Us at Fischer's.

If you are not on our mailing list be sure to write for our handsomely illustrated 1954 catalogue showing "AMERICA'S FINEST AFRICAN VIOLETS." Ready March. Do you have our 1953 color folder?

OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU

FISCHER FLOWERS SAINTPAULIA GIFT CERTIFICATE 1953

This coupon is worth \$1.00 on any purchase of \$5.00 or more from our catalogues (1953 or 1954). Redeemable through the mail or at our greenhouses anytime before June 30, 1954.

\$1.00

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GIFT
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LINWOOD

Dept. V. M. NEW JERSEY

Seasons Greetings . . .

. . . To Our Violet Friends



*The Tinari Award will be given to the best exhibited plant of Clementine at the 1954 African Violet Society of America National Convention.

May we cordially invite you to visit our greenhouses

It is our humble privilege to express our great appreciation and thanks for your patronage and confidence in the past.

The winter snow falls soft and clean
When men's thoughts turn to peace,
As Christmas gladness fills your home
God's blessings never cease.



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African Violet

MAGAZINE

MARCH 1954

VOLUME 7

NUMBER 3



Introducing

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Five Lovely New Violets

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We believe there is no better Proof of "What Makes a Good Novelty" than the choice of customers. That is how our **FIVE** were selected. Customers simply love them. Displayed among our latest crop of choice seedlings for over a year, they consistently attracted immediate attention, in fact just as much as some of the most recent widely advertised introductions. So we think thousands of people must be right and we herewith present their choice. We are sure it soon will be yours, too.

Because of limited advertising space we cannot even start to describe these **FIVE SPIC AND SPAN NOVELTIES**. But you are invited to read all about them in our **NEW SPRING LIST**.

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Shipping in April as soon as weather permits

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SEE PAGE 6 FOR INFORMATION



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Bracket for mounting light fixture over top shelf (fits either model) \$6.50

All prices are f.o.b. Cleveland, Ohio. Remit by check or money order. Ohio customers add 3% sales tax. Shipped express unless otherwise instructed.

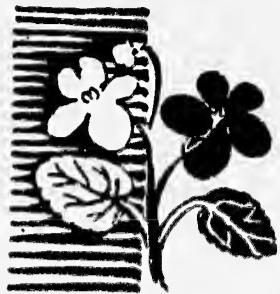
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Write today for descriptive folder and group purchase plan.

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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

CONTENTS

Vol. 7 March 1954 No. 3

FRONT COVER: The beautiful plant window in the dining room of the home of Arthur and Myrtle Radtke in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Radtke is Treasurer of the Society.

White violets, pink violets, lavender ones and some in deep violet and wine shades make this skillfully planned display an entrancing harmony of color, which softly blends with the light grey-green rug and walls of the room to give them a perfect setting.

Title	Page Number
Tell You What	6
Show Plants	8
President's Message	9
New Phase in the Root-Knot Nematode Problem in African Violets	11
African Violet Idea Bench	15
Joint Venture -- Double Returns	16
Letter from "Honey-Bun"	17
Visiting Violet Friends	18
First a Violet -- Then a Shop of Violets -- Then a Club	20
Violets In Her Garden	21
Light and African Violets	22
How to Grow and Bloom African Violets in the Home	24
Research -- Color Variations in the African Violet	25
African Violets in Vancouver, Washington	27
Leaf Rooting	29
Artificial Lights Boon to Violet Growing	30
I Like to Raise Them from Seed	32
Basement Grown Violets	34
Honorary Awards of the A. V. S. A.	37
Show -- News and Views	38
Saintpaulias in Germany	41
Interesting Varieties	42
Beginner's Collection	43
Try Crayons for Coloring Clay Pots	44
Dreams Do Come True !!!	44
Talley of American African Violet Selections	45
Youngsters and Saintpaulia	46
My Method With Violets	48
Columbia Society	49
Stimuplant Violet Kit	49
Peat Moss Culture	50
Hints on Culture of My African Violets	51
Suggestions	52
Romancing with Violets	53
Registration Report	54
My Bluebird of Happiness	55
New Affiliated Chapters	56
Qualified Judges	57
St. Louis Tour	58
Fine Fabrics to Feature Designs of Authentic African Violets	59
Beauty in Her Business	60
More Fun in Giving	61
Calling All Men	62
Homing Pigeon	64
Two Versions of a Saintpaulia Summer	66
Question Box	67
Prevention of Petiole Rot Now Possible with New Tape	73
Club News	79
Introducing a Speaker in One Minute	79

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PLANT A HANGING BASKET

From the originator of this unique method



African Violets grown by our method, give better aeration of the root system and better watering by the use of a porous watering pot submerged in the soil with no dripping of water on the floor. The basket revolves on a swivel for ease in turning it. A bird cage bracket or similar hook is used to suspend the basket in the window.

It requires nine plants, preferably plants out of small pots, just ready to bloom. Single crown plants and varieties that don't get too bunched are recommended.

YOU FURNISH THE PLANTS AND THE SOIL

We ship one 9" wire basket, swivel and suspending wires, watering pot, two kinds of moss, and instructions for \$2.25 ea. or two sets for \$4.00. If desired, we can furnish an 11" bird cage bracket to fasten on the window for .35¢ ea. when ordered with the basket.

TONKADALE GREENHOUSES

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HOPKINS, MINN.

MY NEW INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1954

(Prices are for rooted leaf cuttings)

These will be shipped as soon as weather permits

SEE THESE NEW VARIETIES IN MY DISPLAY AT THE ST. LOUIS SHOW.



SHOW PINK (rooted cutting -- 50¢)



SHOW PINK

The first variety of my **SHOW SERIES** is now available in rooted leaf cuttings for only 50¢. (See cover of the March 1953 A. V. Magazine for color picture). It is a heavy bloomer besides having mammoth dark pink flowers up to 2".

ABOUT THE NEW SHOW SERIES

I have been developing the different varieties in the **SHOW SERIES** over the past three years. They all have several characteristics in common in that they are heavy bloomers, sturdy growers, and have mammoth flowers. They are easy to grow into Show-winning plants and any or all of them will soon become eye catchers in your violet collection.

THE SHOW SERIES (rooted cuttings -- 75¢ each)

SHOW ARISTOCRAT — Large double blue and white flowers up to 2" across.

SHOW BLUE — Large light blue flowers with girl leaf.

SHOW BOY — Mottled dark blue and white.

SHOW CLOUD — Mammoth double white flowers with a tint of blue in the center.

SHOW DAY — Single white with blue center flowers up to 2" across.

DOUBLE BLUE HEIRESS — Large double light blue flowers, DuPont girl leaf.

ELIZABETH THE QUEEN — Dbl. lavender and white flowers bigger than silver dollar.

SHOW EMPRESS — Large double orchid flowers with dark spooned leaf.

SHOW GLOW — Double red flowers with a beautifully scalloped girl leaf.

SHOW HOPE — Dark blue dbl. with girl leaf.

SHOW JEWEL — Single white flower, dark green leaf with red back.

SHOW MAN — Mammoth single white over 2" across. Very heavy bloomer.

SHOW PROMISE — Large double light blue flowers, dark green leaf.

ROCHESTER — Huge dark red double flowers, dark green leaf.

SHOW SENSATION — Double white flowers with red lav. markings.

SHOW SKY — Huge shaded blue and white double flowers.

SNOW SCAPE — Variegated albino foliage, propagates true. Lavender flower.

SHOW STARTLER — Single purple at times variegated with white.

SHOW STOPPER — Mammoth variegated lav. and white, heavy bloomer, girl leaf.

HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. WG

WARSAW, NEW YORK

Greenhouse located one mile south of Warsaw on Route 19

Greenhouse hours: Monday -- Saturday 8:30 to 5:00 — Sunday -- 2:30 to 5:00 p. m.

(SEE NEXT PAGE)



THESE NEW INTRODUCTIONS (rooted cuttings -- 50¢)

ALBINO REDHEAD — Variegated albino foliage, propagates true. Red flower.
CORONATION DAY — Large variegated lavender and white flowers.
CROWN JEWELS — Large white flower, very scalloped leaf.
DOUBLE ECLIPSE — A double of Ulery's blue and white "Eclipse."
LADY-IN-WAITING — Mammoth lavender flowers, girl leaf.
MAGNUM — Tremendous double two-toned orchid flowers.

PRINCESS ANN — Large light blue flower with white edge and girl leaf.
PRINCESS MARGARET — Large dark pink flower, girl leaf.
QUEEN MARY — Huge dark red single flower, dark green leaf.
ROYAL VELVET — Huge two-toned red single flower.
S. GROTEI SUPREME — Good trailer.
SHOW PINK — Huge dark pink flowers. (See illustration on left).

MY INTRODUCTIONS FROM 1953 LIST (rooted cuttings -- 35¢)

BLAIN PINK
BLUE SHEEN
BRIDES MAID
DELIGHTFUL
DBL. GORG. BL. WONDER
DBL. LAV. EYED BEAUTY

DBL. SAILOR GIRL
DBL. SUNSET GIRL
EVENING SHADE
GLORY
LAVENDER ECLIPSE
PAINTED BOY

RUFF. DBL. ORCH. NEP.
SNOW BALL
SNOW PRINCE SUP.
WONDER GIRL

OTHER NEW VARIETIES (rooted cuttings -- 35¢)

Albino
All Aglow
Appealing
Autumn
Blue Horizon
Dbl. Fr. White Lace
Dbl. Neptune Sup.
Edna Fischer
Evening Star
Fantasy Girl

Fantasy Supreme
FLUFFY LADY
Frosty
Geneva's Daughter
Gorgeous Rainbow
Miss Liberty
Moon Ripples
Holly
Pansy
Rippling Geneva

Ruby Girl
Ruffled Queen
Silver Lining
Silver Snow
Snow Line
Star Amethyst
Sugar Plum Girl
WHITE MADONNA
WINTERGREEN

All of these varieties are distinctly different, and blooming plants of these and several hundred other varieties are on sale at the greenhouse at both wholesale and retail prices. I am not shipping wholesale now but expect to be able to ship wholesale orders of these newest varieties about July 1st. Look for my ad telling about this in your June issue of the Magazine.

Because of the great demand for this new series, I can do absolutely no shipping of plants until summer, but the plants are available in quantity at the greenhouse now.

NOTE: No orders for cuttings accepted under \$3.00. On orders below \$5.00 please enclose 50¢ for postage and packing. Orders sent first-class mail. Airmail is extra.

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Greenhouse hours: Monday -- Saturday 8:30 to 5:00 — Sunday -- 2:30 to 5:00 p. m.

NOTE: If you are planning to buy wholesale on a week end, it is best to write me ahead at my home address -- 173 West Buffalo St.

TELL YOU WHAT . . .

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio. Make checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Please do not send them to the editor of the Magazine.

DUES — \$3.00 for a twelve months period. There are no \$2.00 memberships. The Magazine is included in each membership.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

ERRORS IN MEMBERSHIP CARDS, MAGAZINE ADDRESS, HANDBOOK LISTING OR FAILURE TO RECEIVE MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — you may subscribe to the African Violet Magazine for \$3.00. This is for a twelve months period. Membership in the Society is not included with subscription.

CURRENT ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost to members .75¢ per copy. To non-members \$1.00 per copy.

BACK ISSUES — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee and get a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make all checks for back issues payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 79 West Gibson Street, Canandaigua, N. Y.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Grace Rowe, 749 Columbia Street, Aurora, Illinois.

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost is \$5.50 for two. Orders for one binder are not accepted.

COLOR SLIDE PROGRAMS — write librarian 4720 Calumet Drive, S. W., Knoxville 19, Tennessee. Three months notice is required for reservation.

HOMING PIGEON — to join the Pigeon write to Iva Woods, 226 High Street, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. To drop out of a pigeon group or to find a lost one communicate with Mrs. Woods.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR LOCAL SHOWS — write Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry Iowa.



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

It is with pleasure that the following Special Award announcement for the St. Louis Show is made:

BEHNKE GRAND SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

\$25.00 CASH AWARD TO THE EXHIBITOR WHO PLACES FIRST WITH THE MOST BLUE RIBBONS IN CLASSES 1 THRU 21.

\$15.00 CASH AWARD TO THE EXHIBITOR WHO PLACES SECOND WITH THE MOST BLUE RIBBONS IN CLASSES 1 THRU 21.

\$10.00 CASH AWARD TO THE EXHIBITOR WHO PLACES THIRD WITH THE MOST BLUE RIBBONS IN CLASSES 1 THRU 21.

I am looking forward to the Convention and hope to see many of you in St. Louis.

Speaking of Convention brings to mind two corrections that need to be made in the "People Behind the Scenes" report on the Nashville Meeting. The Leclercq Company gave 12 packages of Pep-O-Plant to be used as door prizes. Somehow the Plant Marvel Laboratories was given credit. I am most sorry about this error. Looks as though some lines are missing . . . and the Plant Marvel Laboratories did not receive proper credit either. My apology to them too -- I am indeed regretful that this mistake was made and that their generous gifts were not properly acknowledged in the Magazine.

See you in St. Louis, April 22, 23, 24.

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — unless previous agreement is made with the editor pictures cannot be returned.

AFRICAN VIOLET PIN — may be purchased from the pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. The Pin, or Lapel Button for men, may be had in sterling silver and blue enamel for \$3.50 or in 14 carat gold and blue enamel for \$12.50, including state and federal tax, plus packing and shipping charges.

When ordering please print your name and address. This pin is for National members only. Profits from the sale of these pins are the jewelers only.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS AND BROCHURES — specify number required when writing editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

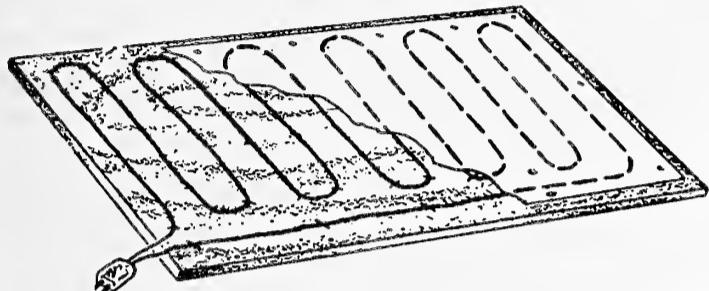


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**LEAVES WILL SPROUT WEEKS SOONER
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VIOLETS THRIVE IN COOL BASEMENTS**

(See Mrs. Olga Witter's letter on page 57 Violet Magazine June '53)



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A6	Cable	15 watts	1½ sq. ft.	\$1.00
B12	"	30 "	3 "	1.80
M26	"	60 "	6 "	2.80
P40	"	100 "	9 "	2.80
J56	"	140 "	14 "	3.00
S112	"	280 "	28 "	6.00
AT thermostat, will handle 1,000 watts				\$4.50

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A—4½" Vertical Stake

75	\$1.00
100	1.25
500	5.00

B—2" x 5" Horizontal Stake

50	\$1.70
75	2.00
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500	10.00

C—6" Vertical Stake

50	\$1.35
75	1.60
100	2.00
500	9.00

D—2" Horizontal Tie on Tag

(Supplied with copper wires)

50	\$1.10
75	1.30
100	1.65
500	7.00

E—3" Horizontal Tie on Tag

(Supplied with copper wires)

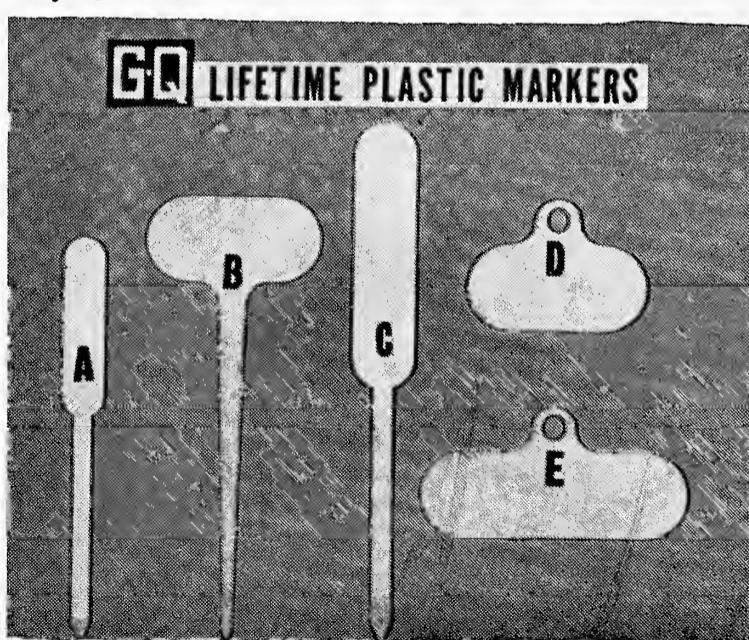
50	\$1.35
75	1.60
100	2.00
500	9.00

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- A. 4½" Vertical Pot Stake
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- C. 6" Vertical Pot or Border Stake
- D. 2" Horizontal Tie on Tag
- E. 3" Horizontal Tie on Tag

B is IDEAL FOR SHOW PLANTS
Guaranteed to withstand all soil and weather conditions.

DEALERS and CLUBS Write for quantity prices on Fiberglass and Markers.
--

SHOW PLANTS

Irma Belle Gross, Old Hickory, Tenn.

Little did I dream when I carried my violets to our National Convention Show in Nashville, April 30, May 1, and 2, 1953 that I would win a prize of any importance, as I only carried my plants to make a lovely show. My plants were beautiful to me, as I love my violets. Had I known I would win the National top award, I would not have carried my plants at all since I was show chairman.

Loving my violets as I do and having had lots of violets for years, I will attempt to tell you how I grow my plants and hope that you too, will some day be a lucky show winner.

To me one of the most important things to begin with is a nice healthy plant, single crown of course. I use the white painted pots you buy in the ten cent stores. These pots prevent petioles from burning or bruising on the pot rim. If an ordinary clay pot is used dip the top in paraffin.

I use a good light soil made up of one gallon rotted stump dirt which is steam sterilized before using, one gallon Georgia peat humus, one scant gallon vermiculite, four cups pulverized commercial sheep manure and four tablespoons Soilene. Place plant in center of pot being careful to anchor well, but be sure crown is not covered. When the plant fills the pot with roots or when the roots grow out the bottom of the pot it is time to shift the plant to a larger pot. My large show plants are in five inch standard pots. I always repot my large plants once a year. After plants have been repotted in fresh soil I usually wait two or three months before I fertilize them. Then since Ovene is the only fertilizer I use, every four weeks I push three long sticks of Ovene into the soil around the edges of each five inch pot, six or eight inches of Ovene stick to each large pot is sufficient.

Keep plants well watered at all times, as I believe more plants may have been damaged by getting too dry than ever have by too much water. Never allow a pot to sit in water for more than six to twelve hours as plants suffer from grey crown when left standing in water too long. I use rain water kept at room temperature for watering all my plants.

Be careful to keep all suckers pushed off of your plants as judges always disqualify plants with suckers or multiple crowns. The point of a lead pencil or a plastic plant label is nice to push them off with. The earlier you remove them the better it is for your plant.

I have my plants on a long porch upstairs -- also in my basement. In the basement I use a



Mr. and Mrs. Gross

triple fluorescent fixture which has three forty watt tubes, since there is a very small amount of daylight. This light is placed eleven inches above the top of the pots and accommodates about fifteen nice show plants. I leave these on for a twelve hour period after which they are swung over to cover another group for twelve hours, this makes one set of lights accommodate approximately thirty plants. The lights are much higher on the porch and are not left on for such a long period. From September until about June my plants grow and bloom better on the porch.

African violets should be sprayed regularly as it makes nicer looking plants and also helps prevent disease. I use Wonder Garden Spray, spraying about once a month.

Always remove all old yellow, broken leaves and old bloom stalks before entering in a show as judges like nice glossy green or bronze foliage, as the case may be, free of all blemishes. Always turn plants since some varieties do grow with little extra care while others need daily turning and sometimes they even require spacing of the leaves. Toothpicks or plant labels work nicely when placed beside petioles for a few days until the leaves grow as you wish, after which you may remove them. Be sure to remove before entering a show or the judges will disqualify the plant.

Uniform temperature is necessary whether you are growing a show plant or just a lovely violet for yourself. Preferably from seventy to seventy-five degrees. A variation of ten degrees at night will not harm your plants. Humidity is also very important and since I have a concrete floor in my basement, I wet the floor and spray my plants daily, sometimes oftener in dry weather. This improves the size of the blooms and makes lovelier foliage also.

Violets will grow with almost any heat if there is enough humidity. My house is heated with a coal furnace. Mrs. Walter Midgett, who was runner-up to the sweepstake both at our Convention Show in April and again at our council show in November, has radiant heat. Mrs. E. L. Perdue, who was sweepstakes winner at our show in November, has electric heat. Mrs. Robert Westmoreland, who has probably the largest plants of anyone in our council, has gas heat. These ladies all fertilize with Pow-R. Caps weekly and all have lovely African violets.

THE END

President's Message

YOUR CONFIDENCE IS MY JEWEL



The New Year is now three months old; I do hope it will be a joyous one for each of you.

As I take over the duties of my office I wish to express to everyone my deep appreciation for the confidence you have placed in me. I must confess, however, that I am not without a certain amount of trepidation at the real immensity of the work ahead. Were it not that I have already had a pledge of support from many of you that I feel sure of the cooperation of each and every one, my enthusiasm might be somewhat hampered. The guiding of an organization as large as ours cannot be successfully accomplished by one person, but must be definitely the work of a well intended and well organized group among whom every move is carefully studied as to its merits before putting its use into action. While I promise to do everything in my power to further and improve the work of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., it is not my intention to do it all alone.

Your National Board will look eagerly for constructive suggestions nor will they be blindfolded when confronted with complaints or adverse criticism, on the contrary this makes for better construction. This is where team work shows its real worth. There is no limit to the good a person can do, if he does not care who gets the credit for it, and that is the spirit with which we should work.

Do your friends a favor; invite them to the monthly meetings of your local society and show them what it means to be an active member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Be proud of your Affiliated group for you have every right to be. The interest is most obvious by the ever increasing membership and the number of newly organized local Chapters.

Two little words, "Thank you" have almost atomic power. Knowing this and feeling this I say from my heart THANK YOU.

Our Magazine editor requests that you do not ask for pictures to be returned. It requires a huge amount of postage and more time for wrapping than can be found in twenty-four hours.

If your treasurer is fortunate enough to have a nice surplus and you are looking for a place to put it to good use there is no better place than with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. There are many avenues into which it can be directed; new awards are always being supplied for our Convention Shows, the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund, our research program and the retirement fund.

Yours for FINER African violets!

Cordially,

Ada Magill

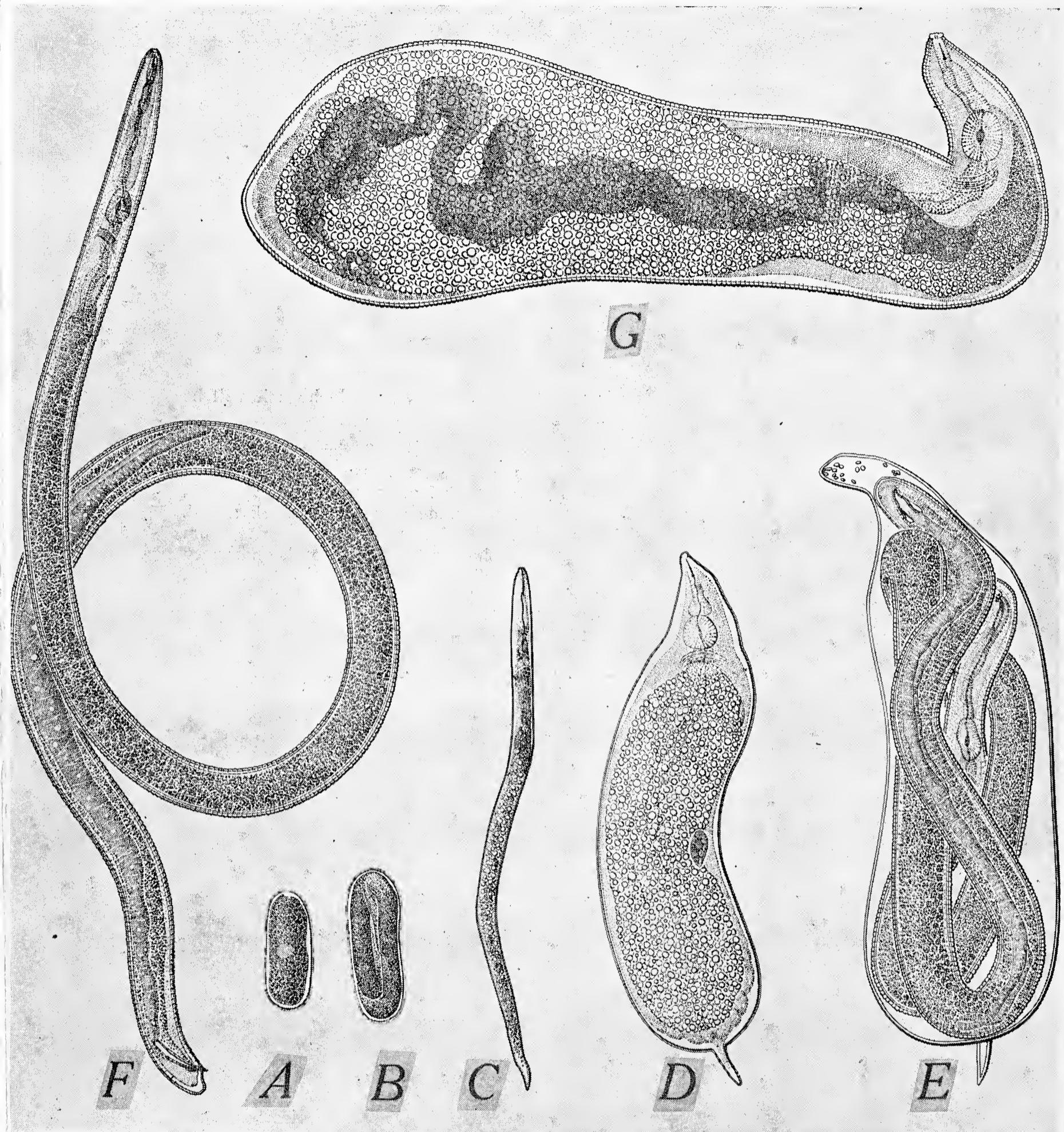
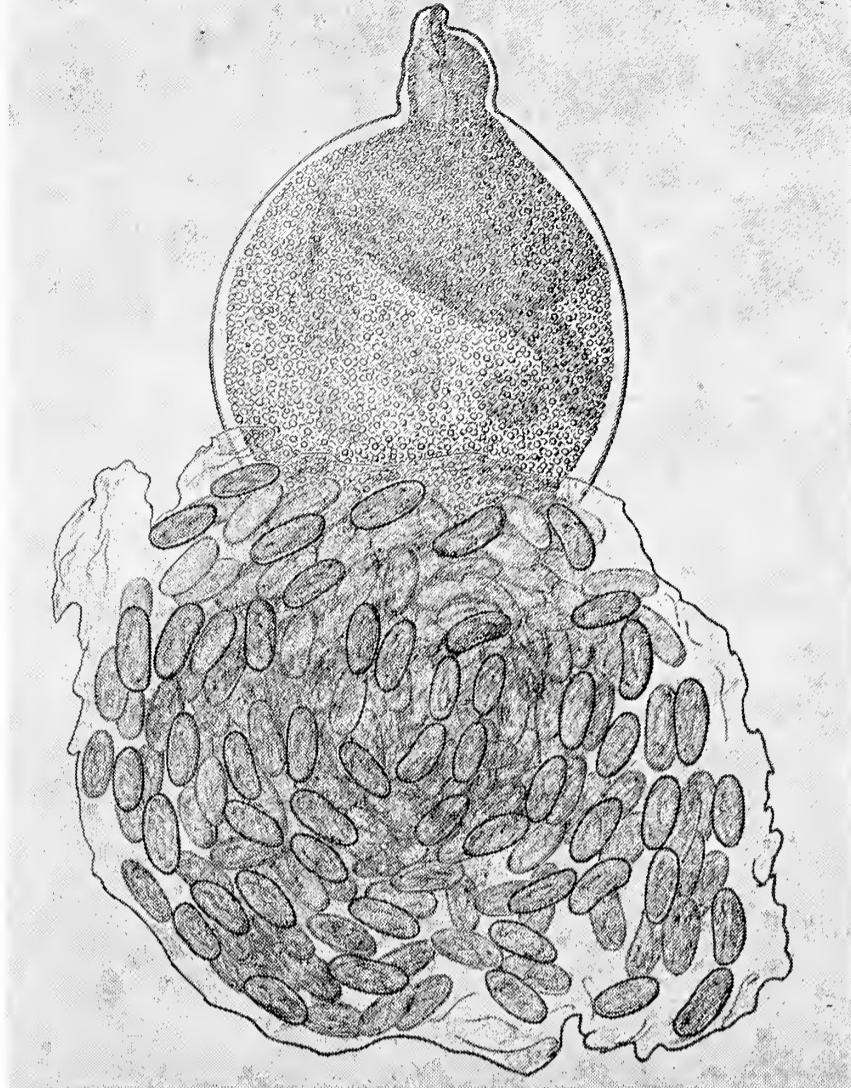


Figure 1 - Drawings of various developmental stages of a root-knot nematode.

- A. Unsegmented egg
- B. Egg containing larva
- C. Migratory infective larva free in the soil
- D. Growing larva living sedentary in the plant tissue
- E. Larval molt containing fully developed male
- F. Adult male
- G. Young female. X187 (After Steiner 1949).

Figure 2 - Drawing of adult female of root-knot nematode with eggs embedded in the protective gelatinous sac. At this stage the living nematode is about the size of a pinhead. (After Steiner 1949)



A NEW PHASE OF THE ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE PROBLEM IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

A. Morgan Golden, Division of Nematology, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland

Root knot is a very important disease of a large number of plants, one of which is the African violet. It is caused by a certain group of nematodes or eelworms usually referred to as root-knot nematodes. The disease is so called because while feeding on the cells within the tissue the nematodes secrete substances which cause the infected area to grow into galls or knots. In most plants attacked the nematodes infect only the roots. On African violet however, these organisms are found not only in the roots but also in the aboveground parts. They have recently been found in the crown, petiole, and leaf of the plant. This apparently has offered a means of continually spreading the nematodes during propagation of African violets, even though control measures have been practiced which would eliminate the usual root parasites. Obviously, this new finding is of particular significance in relation to control of the organisms on this host.

THE NEMATODES

To provide a better understanding of the problems involved, some characteristics of the

nematodes themselves should be mentioned. They are small animals, microscopic in size and whitish in appearance, having the developmental stages shown in Figure 1. Only the mature, pear-shaped female might be seen with the unaided eye. In discussing their development, one might begin with eggs in the soil. As conditions become favorable the larvae are hatched from the eggs. They migrate through the soil to nearby plant tissue and penetrate it. Inside, they arrange themselves along the vascular system where they begin to feed by injecting their stylet into surrounding cells. Here they remain throughout their subsequent developmental stages. Males seldom develop and are not necessary for reproduction.

After reaching maturity, the females begin to lay eggs in a secreted gelatinous sac (Fig. 2), each one depositing an average of four hundred to five hundred eggs before death. In some cases the egg masses protrude from the surface of the plant tissue, infesting the soil with eggs and freshly hatched larvae. These larvae can immediately infect other tissues while the eggs might persist in soil, unless killed, for three or



Figure 3 - Root system of a root-knot nematode infected plant.

four years, hatching larvae as conditions become favorable. The egg stage is the most resistant to adverse conditions, such as cold, heat, and drying. In other instances the egg masses might be deeply embedded in the galled plant tissue. Then as the larvae are hatched, they either find their way to the surrounding soil or infect more of the tissue in the same gall or knot. Under reasonably favorable conditions the whole developmental cycle from egg to mature female requires about thirty days.

SYMPTOMS

The symptoms produced by these nematodes on African violet vary with the degree of infection and the particular plant part invaded. Obviously the greater the number of nematodes present in the plant the more severe will be the damage. The general effect on the plant is to make it grow very slowly if at all, and to give it an unhealthy look. The leaves are often soft and flexible even though the plant has been properly watered. This is because the nematodes in the tissue prevent the normal movement of water and other materials to the leaves.

The infected roots (Fig. 3) develop knots of various sizes, most of which are visible to the unaided eye. Often they are beady in appearance,

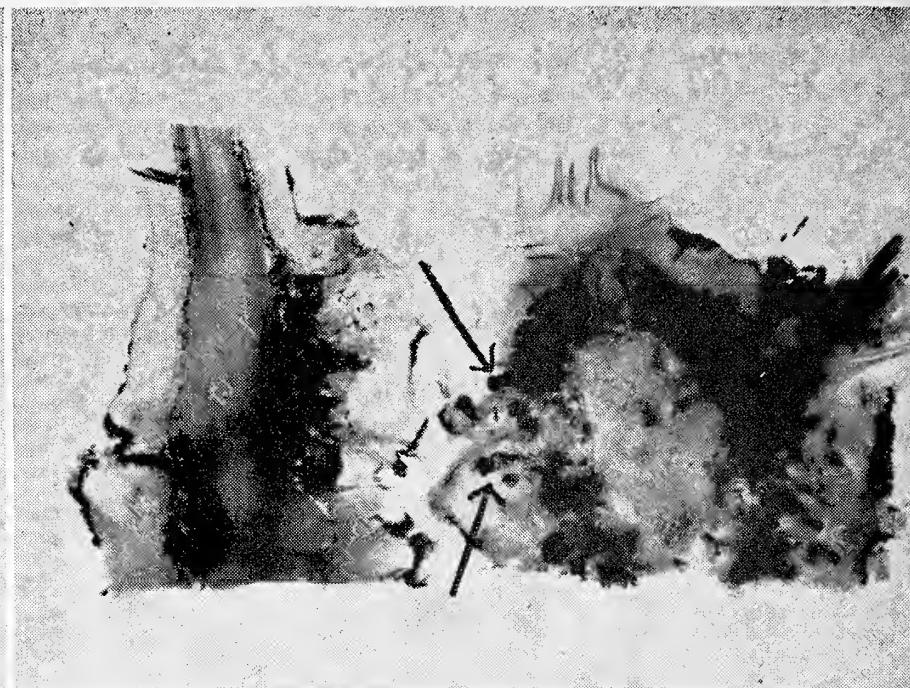


Figure 4 - Longitudinal sections of infected crowns.

Left: swollen crown with moderate number of nematodes.

Right: distorted crown due to severe infection. Arrows point to individual nematodes which are all stained black.

the larger knots sometimes measuring one-fourth to one-half inch in diameter. An early infection, however, might not be detected unless a very close examination of the roots is made.

In the crown a light infection might also be difficult to detect unless a microscopic examination is made. But as the infection increases, the crown becomes swollen (Fig. 4 Left) and in severe cases, even distorted (Fig. 4 Right). This might involve the entire crown or only one side of it.

The petiole (Fig. 5 Left) usually becomes infected first at the base where it is joined to the crown containing nematodes. As the infection increases the knots become more evident and sometimes appear anywhere along the petiole. (Fig. 5 Right). This latter condition is found more often on the older, basal petioles attached to heavily infected crowns.

The infected leaf (Fig. 7) becomes thickened in spots and in some instances has blister-like galls. These symptoms would hardly be noticed shortly after invasion but would increase in severity as the nematodes developed. Again it appears that the lower, basal leaves are the ones most often infected. Also, the suckers (little shoots) which sometimes grow from around the infected crown are apparently easily infected.

CONTROL

In discussing control measures in the light of recent findings, it would seem well to consider the problem in two phases. One of these would be the phase in which the nematodes are soil-borne. In this the organisms are spread by use of non-sterilized soil and rooting medium, unclean tools, pots, benches, etc. Control along this line seems

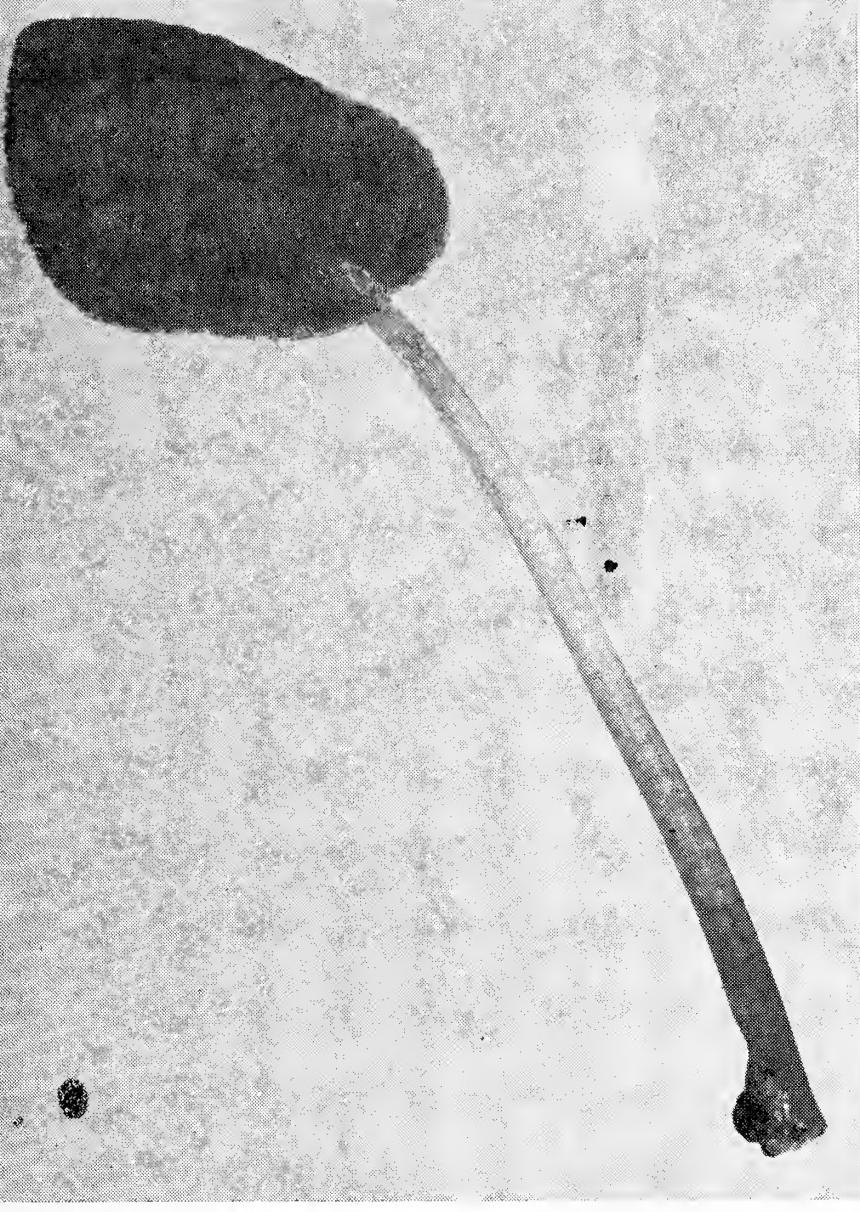


Figure 5 - Infected petioles. Note the knot at the base of the petiole (left) and farther up toward the leaf (right).

to be generally practiced by most growers. It should be emphasized that this is an important basic principle of the control program and should be practiced at all times.

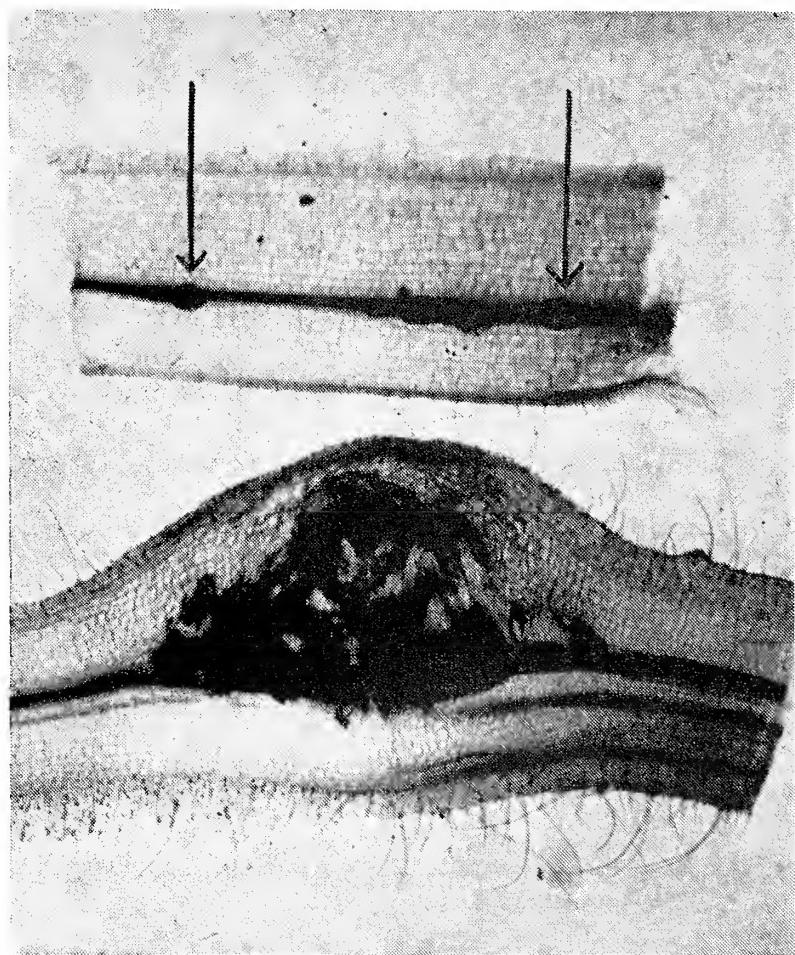
Use only nematode-free rooting medium and sterilized soil for potting (accomplished by steam, baking in the oven or soil fumigants). Clean the tools and pots with steam or by placing them in boiling water for a few minutes. Scrub the benches and tables with hot soapy water, rinse with a mild formaldehyde or clorox solution and let them dry thoroughly. After working with infected plants or non-sterile soil, one should wash his hands before handling clean materials and plants again. Also avoid splashing of soil from one pot to another during watering.

The other phase of the control program is concerned with the nematodes which occur in the aboveground parts of the plant. These are spread by the use of infected material for propagation. Therefore, only nematode-free plants should be used for propagating purposes. Cuttings from such plants should be rooted in an isolated area away from any plants or other cuttings suspected of having nematodes. After they have been potted, care should be used not to introduce the organisms into these. In such way a stock of healthy plants can be built up.

If it should be necessary to propagate a diseased plant or one not known to be absolutely free of infection, select only the healthiest innermost leaves. Cut off as much of the lower part



Figure 6 - Stained longitudinal section of infected petioles. Left: heavily infected area. Right: light infection before swelling develops. Arrows point to individual nematodes.



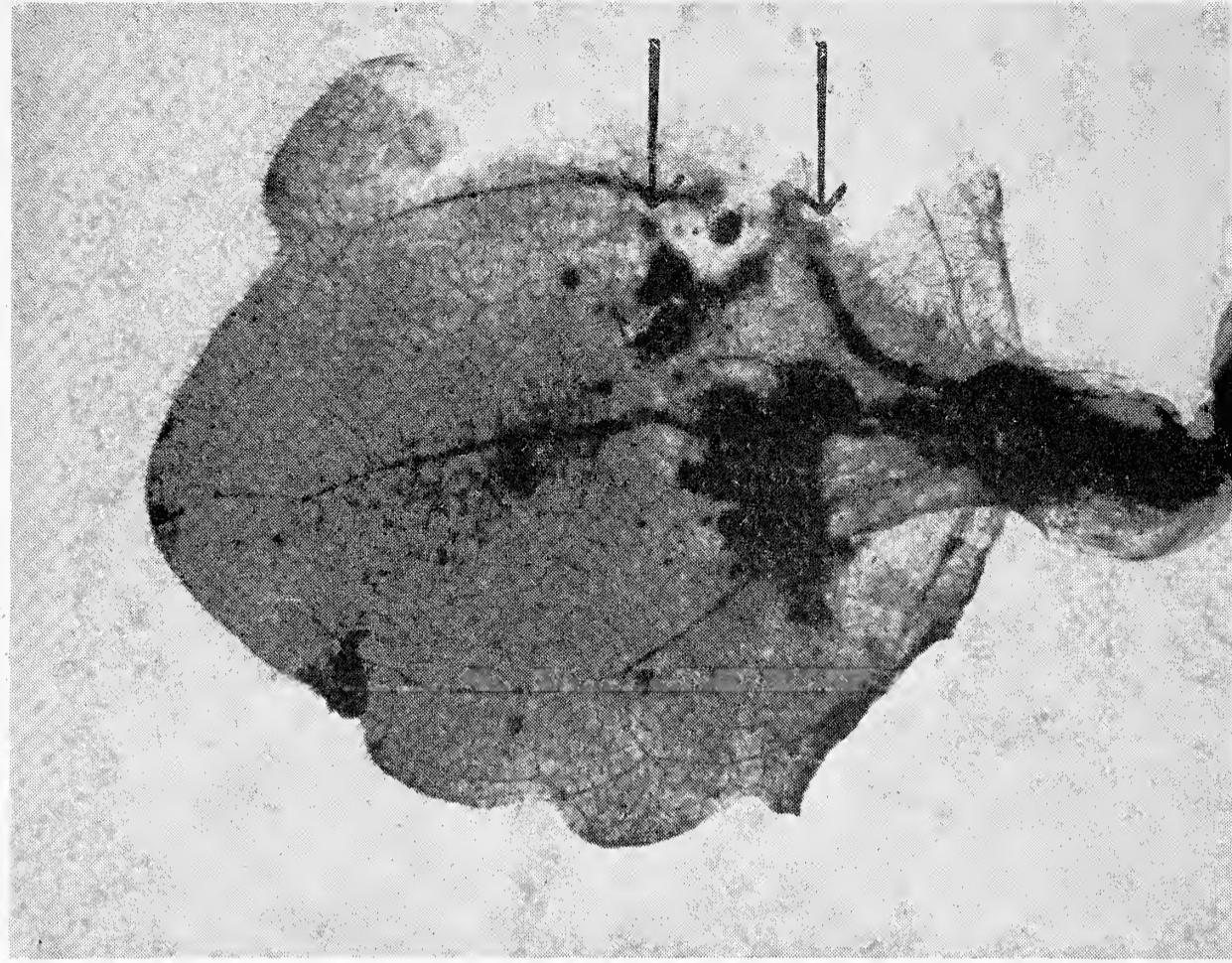


Figure 7 - Diseased leaf. Arrows point to stained individual nematodes.

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of the petioles as is practical to permit good rooting. Then rinse the leaves under running water to remove any contaminating soil or debris. They can be rooted in the usual medium in an isolated area. Or if there are not so many as to make it impractical, they may be rooted while suspended in water. Do not allow the roots of different cuttings to become intermingled or to be in contact with the bottom of the container. At the time of potting, closely examine the plants for symptoms of the infection which might have developed during the rooting period. The material received through the common practice of exchange of plant parts, such as leaves, should also be treated as described above.

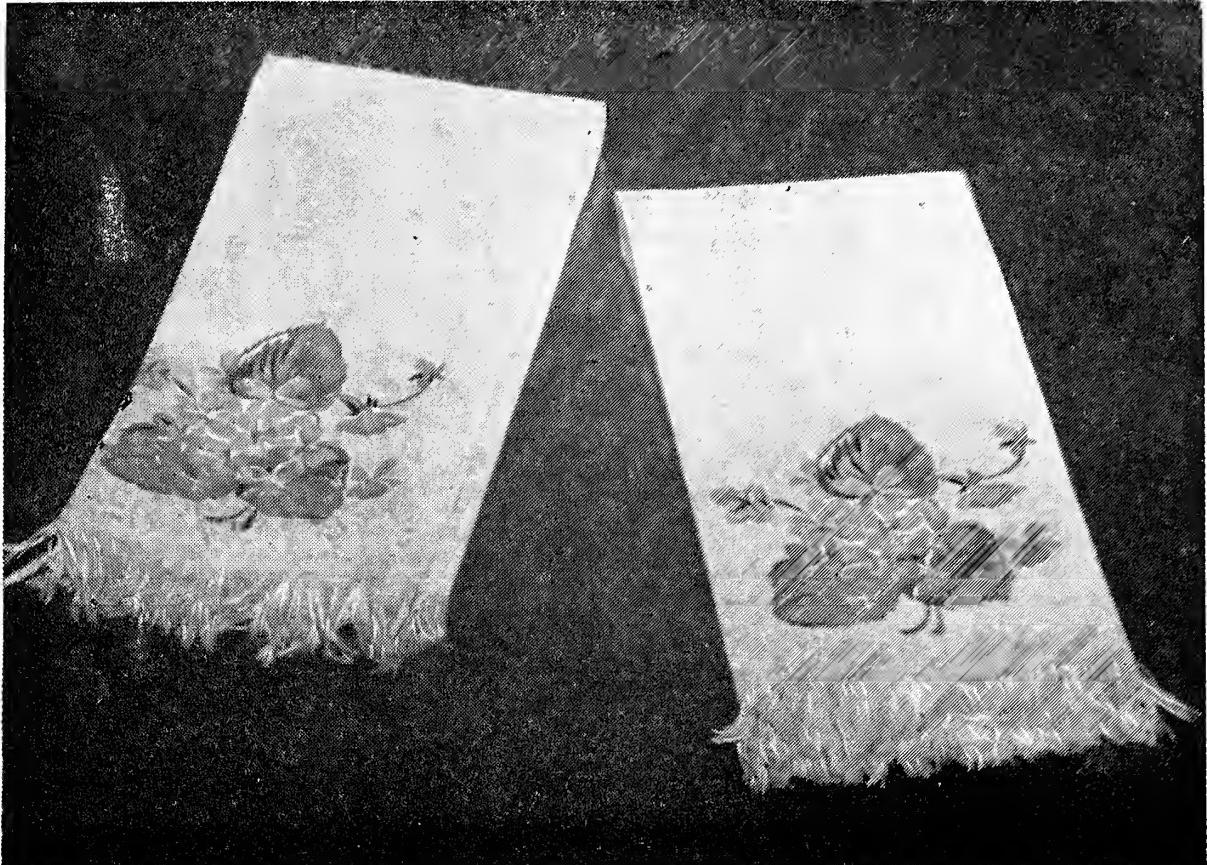
Needless to say, propagation by splitting crowns which are infected would hardly be worth while. It would serve mainly to build up a larger population of nematodes.

After a plant is found to be infected, it should be removed from the healthy ones. Careful cultural practices might be helpful to such a plant but it probably would never be a very satisfactory one. Certain chemicals, such as sodium selenate, have been reported as reducing the amount of infection when placed in the soil around the plant. But at present none seem to be known which will completely eradicate all the nematodes without killing the plant.

Until further research provides more information about the root-knot problem, the suggestions presented here might be helpful to the grower in producing healthier and more vigorous African violets.

THE END

No. 1 - To make the towel as shown in Fig. 1, I used White Linen 12 x 18 inches, hemmed the sides and fringed the ends. McCall's Stencil Pattern No. 1734 was used. Be sure to read the directions with the stencils and follow very carefully. The articles so stencilled will wash and iron very nicely.



THE AFRICAN VIOLET IDEA BENCH

Rose Hahn, 301 Garden Ave., Knoxville 18, Tenn.

The "African Violet Idea Bench" was suggested by one of our Old Time Members and will be carried as a department to bring you new and different ideas relative to our enjoyable activities with African violets.

Starting with the September issue we are beginning a contest for the Idea Bench and solicit your ideas for this Department in the form of articles about how your entry is made and a photograph of it to use as an illustration. If you are not able to get a good picture made you may send your entry to us along with the story about it and we will have a picture made of it if it is a prize winner. All entries will be returned to the sender insured as soon as each contest is closed . . . and we hope it goes without saying

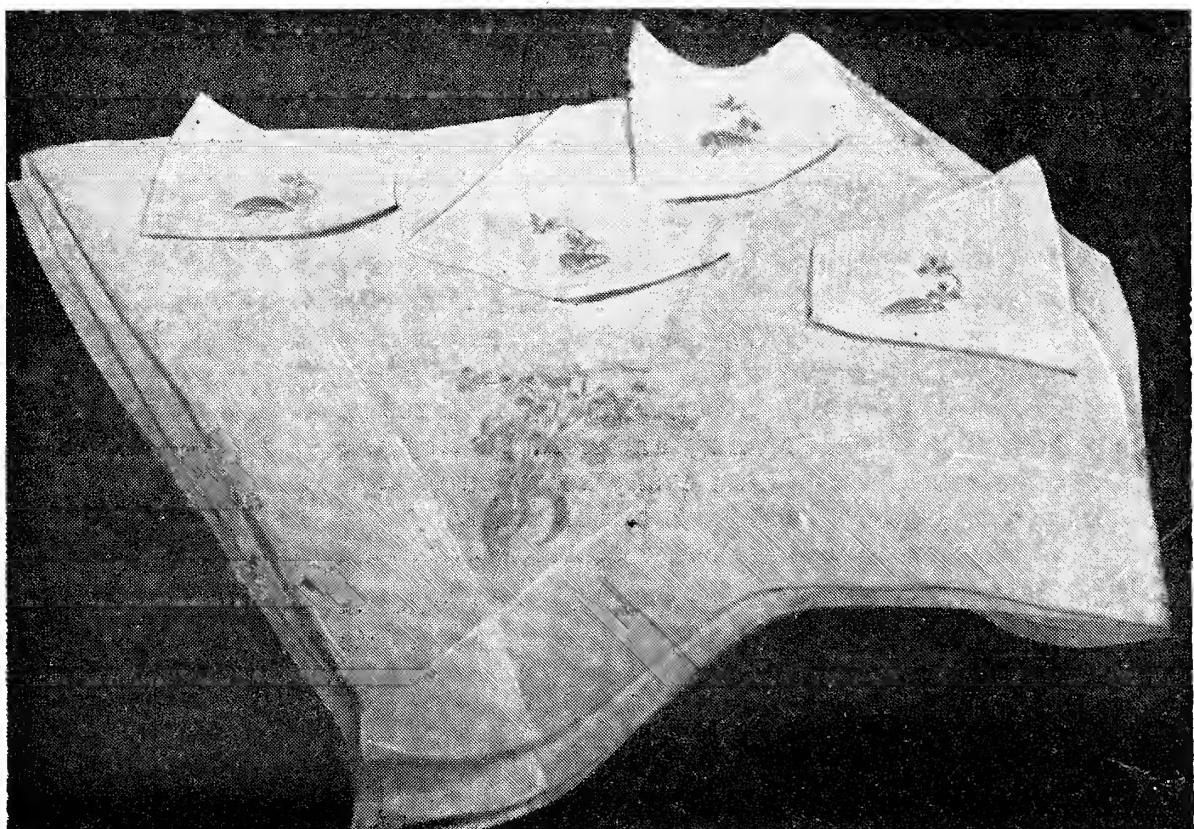
that all entries sent to us will be insured for safety enroute Knoxville.

The deadline for accepting articles for the September issue will be June 1. To make the contest more interesting, we will award a first and second prize of a Membership in the African Violet Society of America or a membership renewal. The subject for September will be "Aprons" or variation thereof. For December the subject will be "Cookies, Cakes or Cards" of any kind, and the deadline will be September 1.

Now come on members, put on your thinking caps, get busy and let's have some good ideas for the next issue.

THE END

No. 2 - Luncheon Cloth. This is an outstanding item which must be seen to be appreciated. It is made of White Organdy, 44 x 44 inches, with a 3 inch hem. The matching napkins were made of the same material size 12 x 12 with a 1 inch hem, and stencilled with McCall's No. 1734 design again. This shows up particularly lovely on the sheer organdy that was used. This would truly be a thing of beauty most all African violet people would like.





Above: Mrs. M. L. Righter, seated in front of her husband's cleverly constructed plant shelves -- their "Joint Venture."

Right: A table full of Irene's and Larry's plants.



A JOINT VENTURE -- DOUBLE RETURNS

Irene and Larry Righter, Mason City, Iowa

This is a husband and wife story, for the hobby of collecting house plants, and eventually growing African violets, was begun and has continued to be a joint enterprise.

Soon after we were married and had our own little house, we felt the need of "greenery" around us, and my husband brought home a piece of ivy for the kitchen. This simple beginning was the start of our venture into the house plant world. As the months went by, other plants entered our home, and soon we had a collection that ranged from amaryllis through the plant alphabet. I began specializing in begonias, and soon had over eighteen varieties.

Then one day my mother gave me a lovely little African violet. I am sure it lived only because it was an Ionantha. It bloomed now and then, but how could it do more, for it seldom saw sunshine. But one day Larry decided to build some window shelves for our plants, and through some very clever designing and constructing, he built shelves that could be easily removed so that windows could be washed and blinds dusted. Then my lonely little violet really started to bloom.

I began to be interested in African violets. In January, 1952, we bought four or five violets

from a greenhouse, but all were diseased and had to be thrown out. I salvaged a few leaves, however, and after spraying them thoroughly, I started rooting them. They made lovely plants.

As violet lovers will understand, there was now little room for anything else but violets and just a few cherished begonias. For in one and a half years I have collected about one hundred and fifty varieties.

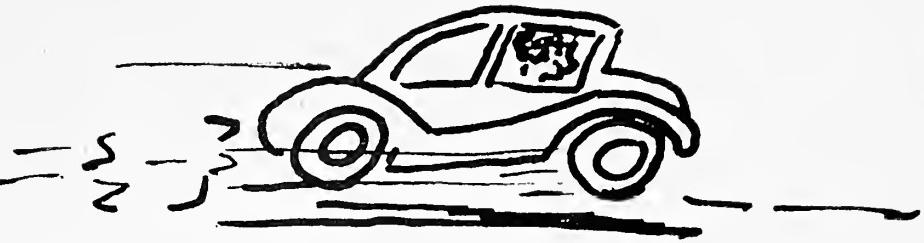
Larry's interest has held, as well as mine, and he has continued to build more shelves for more room in the sun. When window space ran out, he built plant stands which are lovely, adorned with blooming violets. I'm afraid that soon even my old favorite begonias will have to go, for the wee violet will eventually steal any heart.

This fall Larry rented a bench in a local greenhouse to start some one hundred and fifty different leaves, and what fun to watch them grow! There are still many lovely varieties that we are both dying to have, including some of the newest introductions. And we'll get them somehow, short of breaking the law!

THE END

a Letter

from



"Honey-Bun"

DEAR FRIEND:

When my boss said to me, "Honey-Bun, we are going violet-ing," I was quite pleased, because I am getting quite Saintpaulia minded. This is my third summer with my boss, and I sure have been through a lot of violet situations.

I just got rested up after our show in Amsterdam. Was I loaded down for that one! I just got four new tires, so now I'm ready for far off places again.

I guess I better explain that I am a Chevy Convertible. Just to keep matters straight, of course. And everyone in my Boss's African Violet Society calls me "Honey-Bun."

Well, the boss, her pail and I left home on Tuesday morning. The first stop was Milldair Farms at Pompey Center. The Milligans, Gertrude and Howard, are real fun to visit, and they have a doll-house of violets. They are the ones propagating Black Swan and Coronation. Watch for those two in the future.

From there we went to Lykes outside East Bethany. Mr. Lyke's place is attractive, and she is so friendly. The boss and Mary bought some new ones there -- just couldn't resist.

Then on we went to Batavia and visited Mrs. Coniber. What helpful, friendly folks they were. Even found us a place to stay all night -- and just between you and me, I was sure glad to get a little rest. And such a violet room as they have! They have all sorts of things there. I know, because I heard them discussing beautiful seedlings with spooned leaves and girl leaves and beautiful blossoms.

Next day we went on to Clarence and stopped at Ostolshi's. This was hospitality plus. Mrs. Ostolshi showed the gals some seedlings she has in propagation, to be released later. Guess they must have been outstanding, by the way the boss raved over them. Then Mrs. Ostolshi said coffee was ready and everyone gathered around the kitchen table just like a family. You'd think they had been friends for years. Finally, after getting leaves, and leaving leaves (violet folks do that, you know,) we went on to North Tonawanda, to see Bertha Human and her cute little violet shop. The girls came out with boxes of treasures, and I gathered from the conversation that Bertha had a sweet parakeet named Dusty, a shop full of healthy, lovely plants, and some

seedlings of her own. The gals enjoyed cool fruit drinks and a long gab-fest.

From there we went to Mrs. Richards at Williamsville, and that's when I thought I was going to stay at the curb all night. I really thought they had gone to bed and forgotten me. Finally, I was packed with more boxes, and I heard snatches of conversation as we traveled along about Fluffy Lady, the Roseanna Series (so many of them!), All Aglow, Suprita, Red Sweetheart, Niagara Princess, White Girl Hybrid, and many others. I guess Richards' Green Thumb Violet Gardens was quite a place for Saintpaulia collectors to visit. The girls seemed to be quite excited about the place and the charming lady who owns it.

Well, it was too late by then to get home that night, so we all stayed at Avon. Next day we headed for home. But then the only thing I heard was the boss and Mary naming all the places they hadn't had time to see on this trip.

They never seem to get enough. I don't mind, as long as they keep my tank filled -- I'll take them again anytime. I like to find out about all these places where there are good plants and new varieties, because I imagine there are many folks who would like to make violet tours and would like to have some of this first hand information. We covered six hundred and ten miles in three days, and if we had stopped one more place and made many more purchases, it's anyone's guess where they could have been packed.

If these gals find out anything interesting on the next trip, I'll let you know and you can pass the information on to other violet-minded folk. And you can take my word for it -- my boss and Mary are real fussy about plants. They are both qualified judges, and if they are smart enough to be that, you can bet a gallon of gasoline they are smart enough to know good plants when they are well grown in clean, attractive surroundings. And they sure were enthusiastic about all the places they visited on this trip!

My boss is too busy admiring all her new plants, so I thought I'd write for her.

Good violet-ing to you and your friends,
HONEY BUN

P. S. My boss is Mrs. Kenneth C. Covert, but all her friends call her Vera.

H. B.
THE END

VISITING

VIOLET FRIENDS

Catherine B. Shepard, Arlington, Va.

I arrived at the Airport at 7:50 a.m. It was a lovely morning and gave promise of a nice day. But I wondered how the weather would be along the line. The seats in the terminal had no protection from the sun, as it came streaming through the glass which reached to a great height. So I did not sit for very long at a time. I was watching the passers by, and those around me. The soldier with his wife and children, the children stopping by the news stand that carried so many of the comic books they love so well. The mother with her child sleeping on the seat beside her. Sailors trying to shade the sun from their eyes. The long line of men reading newspapers or books, who would soon be going their different ways.

After boarding the plane and getting started, the hostess told us the first stop would be St. Louis, Missouri, which would take approximately three hours and forty-five minutes. The trip was uneventful and we arrived at St. Louis fifteen minutes early, which time we had to spend there. I got off the plane to stretch my legs, and a fellow passenger tagged on to me for the rest of my journey. She was going to Los Angeles. I wonder why some people find so much to complain about. The Hostesses both came and chatted with me, and of course the conversation veered around to African violets.

I thought the plane was running off schedule, when it dawned upon me the difference in the time. Somewhere along the line I had lost two hours as we observe daylight saving time. My daughter was at Kansas City to meet me.

I rested until Monday, when Mr. and Mrs. Hines came for me and we visited Roses' Greenhouses. We found the terrific heat had really left its mark on the plants. Four greenhouses full of so many varieties. Seedlings they were so proud of. Episcias in hanging baskets all around. In the house was Mrs. Roses' private collection, and so many miniature greenhouses full of seedlings in all stages of growth. I wondered where they would put them all.

I had to plan so I could rest between trips. On Wednesday early, accompanied by Mrs. Hines we flew to Des Moines. As we entered the Airport I heard my name being called. Soon a gentleman came and greeted us. It was Mr. Young, Dorothy Young's husband, and soon we were on our way to their home. When riding through a city that you have never visited before, there are many points of interest. I found Dorothy

was quite different to what I had pictured her. It wasn't very long before we went into the basement to look over her plants. What a sight to behold. No signs of heat effects here. Everything was immaculate and the plants and cuttings all looked lovely. The rooting cuttings showing baby plants. Tray after tray of them. Here again we found Naegelias and Episcias. In fact every place I visited they were to be seen. In the afternoon Mr. Young took us to Mahr's Greenhouses and on looking around at the many violets I wondered where all these plants were going. So many people growing and selling them. It is simply amazing. There seems to be a number of miniatures all around too. Our next stop was at Mae's Violetry, and here we found many Gesneria plants, and lovely seedlings which give promise of many new varieties to come. Plants upstairs and down and looking very healthy in spite of the heat. Some varieties I had never seen in bloom, and others that did not live up to the names given them.

As we planned leaving Des Moines the following night, we made arrangements to visit Ferne Kellar the next morning. Ferne came for us early and took us to her home. The garden was a riot of blooms. Many varieties of Hemerocallis and all other garden varieties made me long to be able to work in the garden. The porch on the front of the house, all enclosed had the roof inside completely covered with Philodendron. I asked Ferne how long it had taken to grow. She said about ten years.

Here again we found plants upstairs and down, in fact all over the house. I believe Ferne has most of the Gesnerias now under cultivation. We saw cuttings in Air-wrap, also other methods being used towards the same end. The familiar tin cans, which most growers use at different times, pans and trays. But the names, so many to remember, and so different in another part of the country. I heard names I had never heard before. So many alike that one name could cover many, which would be much easier to remember. While there Mrs. Amy Alcorn arrived from Mason City, Iowa. She had arranged her visit for when I would be there, and I was delighted to meet her. After the usual confab, which always takes place when violet lovers meet, we all left for Dorothy's again. Arriving there we found Dorothy had a call to go to Denver that day so we arranged to have dinner with Ferne, who stayed with us until the plane left.

Here and now, let me thank one and all for their graciousness, kindness, and all the trouble they took to make my visit one I shall always remember. We left Des Moines with a deep sense of satisfaction, that our time had been so well spent, and we had gained so much knowledge through the efforts of others.

It was a clear night and as we neared Kansas City, the sight was beautiful with all the colored lights which defies description.

The following Sunday after Church, we visited Helen Montgomery. We found a lovely set up here. Everything gleaming white and immaculate. Helen is so vitally alive, and her plants matched her. Helen loves miniatures, and is acquiring quite a collection of them. We spent a pleasant time with her, and it is really hard on those who are waiting outside, while an African violet get-together is going on. My thoughts went back to my greenhouse, which is still unfinished, and I wished I could get a little order there. Finally we broke away.

My next trip was the following Tuesday, when Mr. and Mrs. Dillard of Kansas City, Missouri came for me. Mrs. Dillard is president of the Begonia Society branch there, and also the president of the Gloxinia Society branch. When I walked into her greenhouse that night it was like walking into fairyland. Hanging baskets all over, filled with Gesneria plants. Pedestals holding huge Begonia plants and ferns. Fluorescent lights under the benches showing all kinds of tropical plants and others. Episcias, Calumneas, Gloxinias, Naegelias, Achimenes that were a delight to see. I am not a Begonia fan yet, so could not talk the Begonia language, but there I saw some lovely plants of them that wouldn't take long to make a fan. The amazing thing to me was all these plants growing together. When Mrs. Dillard told me she didn't sterilize her soil, it made me wonder if it was necessary to go to all that trouble. I have hesitated to grow other plants with the Saintpaulias because of reports that it wouldn't be wise. Now I wonder. Next day I attended the regular meeting of the Gloxinia Branch which was held in Mrs. Dillard's home. A great stack of Gloxinia and Begonia cuttings were prepared to give to the members attending. We had a nice meeting and I had the pleasure of meeting so many Robin members I had been corresponding with. Something I had never dreamed would happen. The next day Mrs. Leora Calmse took me to see her greenhouse and plants. She grows lots of Begonias too, and several of the Gesneria plants. Her daughter then drove me to have dinner with Mrs. Mona Ayers. There I found about the same conditions. Plants all over the house and a lath house full outside. This was the first lath house I had seen, but there was too much sun coming in for the plants I grow. Mrs. Mildred Schorr another Robin member came to see me. All her plants were at Mrs. Ayers, because the use of water was restricted in the section where Mrs. Schorr lived.

It is very interesting to hear the discussions about different plants. One person likes a plant another person will not have, which shows how difficult it would be to name a certain few as the best plants. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and we all see so differently. Another member and husband came to see me. Mr. and Mrs. Seavers who have a greenhouse, and I was sorry I did not have time to see it. By that time I was beginning to feel very tired, and when my daughter and husband came for me I knew I wouldn't do much more visiting. Mrs. Mary Hines grows all her plants under fluorescent lights, and she has a lovely collection. She also is adding Gesneria plants to her collection. There was one more visit I wanted to make and the day before I left for home, we went to visit Mrs. Pendleton. Here we found blooms galore in fact more blooms than I had seen anywhere. Such beautiful plants, each in a separate container. Each pot with aluminum foil around the rims. Anyone could see the plants were given great care. Seedlings which give promise of more new varieties, and here again I wondered where they would all go to.

This was my last visit and as I look back I feel so thankful I was able to make this trip. It really was a revelation, as I now believe the average grower has no idea of the number of Saintpaulias that are being grown. They know there are many growers, but the quantities are the amazing thing. This was a visit to just a small section of our Country, so what the whole country would add up to is beyond speculation. I arrived home brimming over with new ideas to try out, which will keep me busy for some time. I found the inspectors had examined my plants while I was away, and gave me a clean bill of health. Now, after all this my eyes are on St. Louis, and all being well I want to be there. Everyone who has the opportunity should try and visit a different section. They will find it will be a revelation. I didn't hesitate about taking this trip, any more than I did attending the last Convention. You know the saying "He who hesitates is lost." I hope to see you all in St. Louis.

THE END

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Mrs. Kitch and plants.

FIRST A VIOLET -- THEN A SHOP OF VIOLETS -- THEN A CLUB

Mabell Kitch, Indianapolis, Ind.

I had one violet in 1946, purchased another in 1947, and that was the extent of my violet culture -- but not the extent of my interest in the charming little plants.

I was working on a case in the Methodist Hospital that year and going about my duties as a registered nurse -- quite busy enough, you understand -- when who should come on our floor but Tom Yoars. We started talking violets, and I almost followed him home!

As soon as possible, I did visit his greenhouse, and I have never had such a thrill. My two lonely violets were both blue, and I had no idea there were so many beautiful varieties. I will never forget my first glimpse into that greenhouse. I went back home loaded down with plants, and then went back again and again. We just kept building window shelves, and I just kept getting more plants. Soon, Mrs. Yoars was giving me new varieties from her own shelves, and my enthusiasm was unbounded.

I wanted to share my new-found knowledge and excitement with other violet lovers in In-

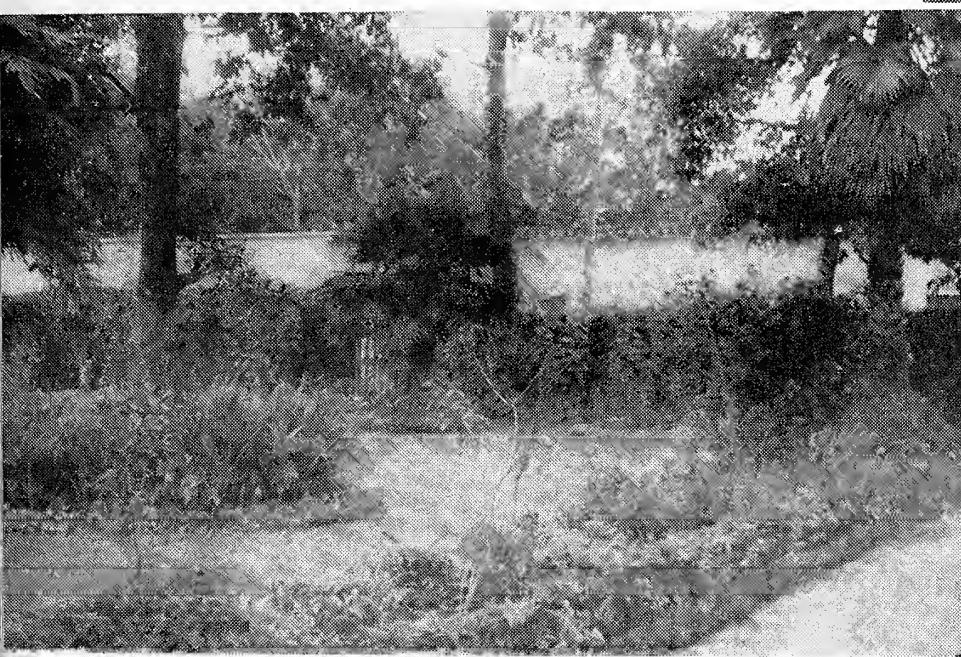
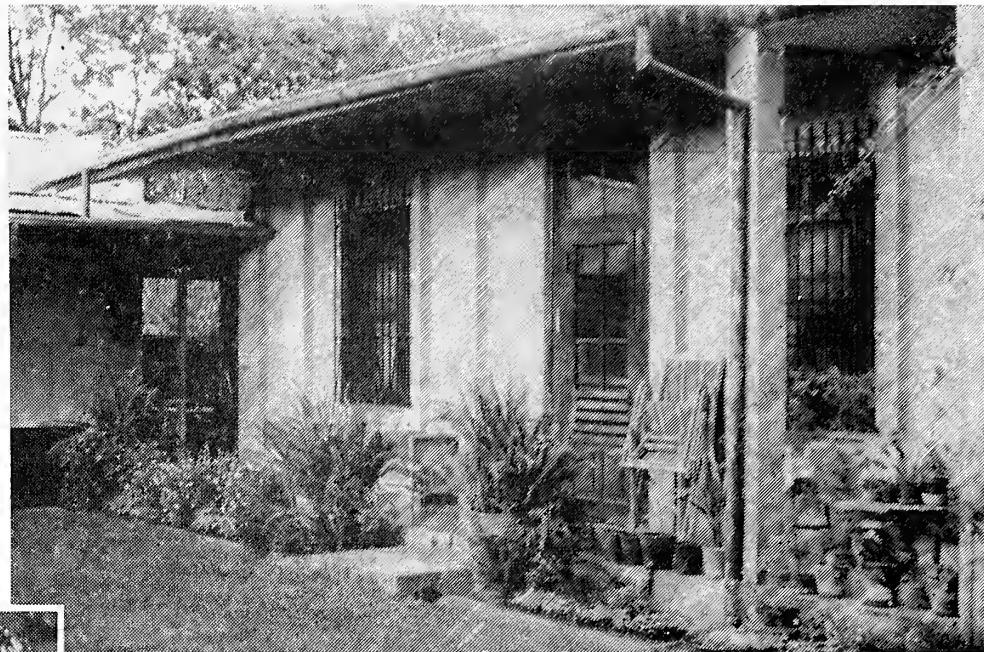
dianapolis, as well as find people nearer to home who grew them. Ruth Yoars told me about the African Violet Society of America, which I quickly joined. There were then only three other members in Indianapolis. But I continued to hear about others who were interested in them, and on February 21, 1951, we had a meeting at my house, and the first Indianapolis African Violet Club was organized. It quickly grew to thirty members, and as more ladies wanted to join, we organized other clubs.

We have had two shows so far, and hope soon to have a show for all Indianapolis clubs.

In the meantime, I have started my own African Violet Shop, and am quite happy introducing new varieties to old club members, as well as selling other people the African violet hobby. We all work together, working out problems with lights, ailing plants, and just having lots of fun. Each customer that comes to my shop receives subscription blanks to the National Society. Indianapolis now has fifty-three National members.

THE END

HOUSE . . .



. . . and GARDEN

VIOLETS IN HER GARDEN

Gertrude Guttmann, Guatemala

I have found a new way for caring for my violets which might not be new at all to some of you, but this method delights me so much and makes things so much easier, with such beautiful results, that I can't resist passing it on to all. At first I must mention that I simply could not go on watering my hundreds of plants the old way -- watering the plant from below. We cannot do it with a spray in Guatemala, as some of you do it, for our water here is ice-cold and full of chemicals. Even the professional growers here who watered with a spray had disastrous results, and most gave up African violet culture when one after another of their plants became fatally sick.

But I loved my plants too much to give up trying everything. Finally, I had benches made for use in the garden under big trees, which afforded partial sunshine through the shading, protecting leaves of the trees. Eight boxes were made, each holding thirty plants -- built at just the right height for me to watch and admire my beauties. And there they grow, strong and

vigorous with healthy roots, beautiful foliage and profuse blooms.

Each box is built with a frame, ten centimeters high, on which rests a piece of light tin to protect them from heavy rains. Of course, the tin is left off in pleasant weather. If I find one plant crowding another, I remove the culprit. During the rainy season I have no problems watering my plants, for they certainly get all they need from Mother Nature, but are protected all the while.

These plants bloom more quickly and profusely than my other potted plants, are healthier in every way -- and, oh, so much easier to care for.

When one of my "yard" plants has blooms, I move it into my little greenhouse to enjoy it, and replace it with a budless plant.

No work -- and excellent results. What more could one desire!

THE END

LIGHT and AFRICAN VIOLETS

John S. Coryell, Golden Colorado

It is often said that if your African violets are healthy and growing well, and yet do not bloom, the trouble is not enough light. I find this is entirely correct in the majority of cases. In this article I will discuss the subject of light and its effect upon African violets.

The last few issues of the African Violet Magazine have had some excellent articles concerning light, and so I shall not repeat too much of that material. Light, heat, and electricity are forms of energy. Both plants and animals burn energy, derived from food, to carry on their life processes. Only green plants have the ability to store energy. These plants capture light by means of green chlorophyll compounds in their leaves, and this light energy is used to change water and carbon dioxide into simple sugars and other "building blocks." The plant then moves these substances throughout its structure, where they may be burned or stored as starches and fats.

Light intensity and the length of time the light falls upon the plant are both very important. Each must be considered apart from the other. Light intensity is similar to the voltage in an electrical line. Some plants can take the entire intensity of the direct sun. Such plants as Geraniums, Chrysanthemums, and Cacti are able to utilize all the sunlight that is available. In your own home many of you have an electrical stove with 220 volts. This voltage can deliver more energy than 110 or 25 volts. Your vacuum cleaner, your refrigerator, and other equipment will burn out with 220 volts. They require 110 volts.

In my home and greenhouse I have the new GE switches, and the thermostat operates a relay to turn on the pump which furnishes heat for the house. These electrical fixtures require 25 watts to operate correctly -- 110 volts would furnish so much energy that they would burn out in a few moments. I like to think of these switches as having the same relationship to 220 volts as African violets do to full sunlight. Each will "burn out" under full electrical load or full sunlight.

In your home, or out-of-doors on the electrical pole there is a machine called a transformer, which changes the dangerously high electrical currents into 220, 110, or 25 volts. The same thing can be visualized as happening to the sun. In the early morning the sun rays travel through many miles of air close to earth, and this air is laden with dust, moisture, soot, and other impurities, which "transform" the sunlight into a "low-voltage" sunlight. The African violet can utilize this "low-voltage" sunlight unprotected.

As the sun rises higher into the heavens it travels through purer air (or less air at high altitudes), and is stronger. By 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. this light is strong enough to cause damage. If it should snow, the added reflected light could cause damage very early in the morning. Of course this time factor changes in each part of the country and each day of the year, and must be adapted to your own use.

After 9 a.m. you must furnish your own "transformer" if you grow African violets in an east, south, or western window. The simplest device is wax paper from your kitchen, but there are muslins, nylons, and other materials with the same shading ability, and more artistic.

Since African violets can only receive this diluted, or transformed sunlight, they must be exposed to this light for relatively longer periods of time. Each leaf, each cell, and each particle of chlorophyll can only work at a certain rate of speed. These chemical processes proceed at a maximum rate only in the early morning, when the plants have had a period of darkness in which to transport the sugars to other parts of the plant, and perhaps "burn" it for energy. After a few moments of exposure to sunlight the cells begin to "fill-up" with sugars and other freshly manufactured products, including oxygen. These products must be moved, by diffusion, to adjacent cells and thus throughout the plant. These sugars will move from points of high concentration to points of low concentration. As these sugars "pile-up" in the green leaf the manufacturing process becomes adjusted to the rate of removal. If the manufactured products are not removed the manufacturing process ceases.

A similarity is to be found in the automobile manufacturing world. A large corporation sent word to all dealers not to sell automobiles for a short period. The corporation set up a slow schedule of manufacture, but soon found their entire storage capacity clogged with automobiles. They then started to store the parts, and again they soon reached storage capacity, and as working space around the conveyor belts became filled with spare parts the belts became full and stopped operating. The company had to shut down and order the dealers to accept cars for storage and start selling them again. The African violet would certainly grow and bloom if its system could be kept "clogged" with foods.

The potato plant can store extra starch in its tubers, and the rose plant can store ten per cent of its production in its stems, but the African violet must live on daily production. This production must continue for six, twelve or

eighteen hours daily. I know of no reason why lights could not be applied longer, but the plants need some rest from manufacturing to "grow." The night, or dark period is utilized in building up the plant, or "growing."

The ideal method of producing fine plants is to grow the African violets in your best window, and subdue the light to meet the plant's requirements, and then furnish them with light from fluorescent fixtures for a certain period each day. If you would give your "eastern" exposure plants extra lights in the afternoon, and your "western" exposure plants extra lights in the morning they would "perk" up and flower luxuriantly. Those with southern exposures can shade their windows to grow excellent African violets without extra lights.

In Colorado I have found that African violets must be shaded from direct sunlight even at a distance of eight or ten feet from the window. We use a bamboo curtain which is drawn across the windows early in the morning, as I do not like Venetian blinds, since they often cause burning, when open, and shut out too much sunlight when they are closed, but I do have several

friends that use Venetian blinds very successfully.

To conclude, I will summarize by saying that African violets can be grown successfully when given subdued light, whether from the sun, or fluorescent lights (or both), for a period of six to eighteen hours daily, while recommending twelve to fourteen hours daily.

THE END

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HACKENSACK, N. J.

"How to GROW and BLOOM African Violets in the Home"

J. Lawrence Heinl, Floriculturist

Permission to reprint page 9 from this interesting book on our favorite plant has been obtained from the Author — Editor.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

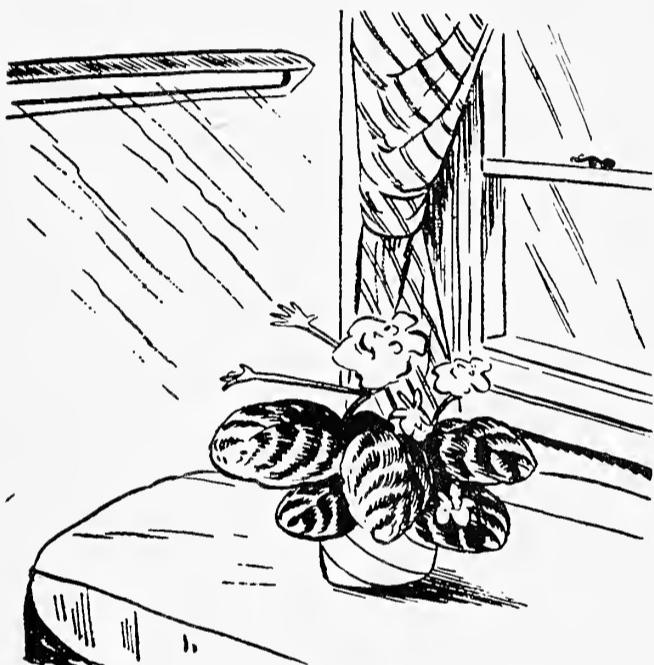


Fig. 7—Additional light

These two factors go hand in hand in promoting proper growth of violets. It is true that African violets come from tropical countries, but they won't grow well under the dry and hot conditions of the average home. Hence some modifications are essential. The best temperatures for African violets are 60° F. at night and 70° F. during the day. As a consequence the dropping of temperatures during the night to 50° to save fuel will not be satisfactory. Nor, on the other hand, do they thrive well in day temperatures much in excess of 70°. (Fig. 8) If held at high temperatures, greater humidity is necessary to develop flowers. (Experimentally the Ohio State University tests have shown that 75-78° produce the greatest number of flowers, but high humidity, 60-70%, was maintained at the same time.)

It is very difficult to maintain high humidities in the average home, no matter what type of heating is used, unless the homes are air conditioned. High humidities may be obtained in areas where normal high humidity is available outdoors, as for example, in and about San Francisco, or at certain periods in Louisiana or Mis-

sissippi. As a consequence, some provisions have to be made in the home to keep the moisture high in the vicinity of the plants themselves. In kitchens where steam for cooking permeates the air we approach ideal conditions. Elsewhere, the use of pans of wet sand or pebbles in water (Fig. 9) with a large evaporating surface helps. Likewise, misting the plants with warm water several times per day helps. To make sure that proper temperatures and humidity are maintained, avoid drafts and sharp changes from hot to cold, or the reverse. Humidity being of such great importance to the growing of African violets as well as the health of the human being, serious consideration should be given to the installation of one of the new humidifiers that will supply adequate humidity up to somewhere near normal for both your plant's sake and your health's sake. The use of the humidifier will amaze you. In the average home it is easily possible to put 7 to 8 gallons of water into the air every 24 hours. You will feel better and so will your plants.



Fig. 6—Too much light

Research concerning . . .

COLOR VARIATIONS IN THE AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER

Howard L. Mills, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Botany, Marshall College

African violet growers have long noted that, in many varieties of this household plant, flowers on the same plant may be of several different colors or may have the same color distributed in several distinctly different areas of the same flower. Such flowers may appear on a plant at the same time and appear the year around. These could be called the "constant color variations" which may or may not appear at a particular season of the year. To complicate matters further, the flowers of plants produced by leaf propagation from a single plant may have color patterns which are markedly different from those produced by the plant from which the leaves were originally taken. Such unstable "color breaks," in the frequency with which they apparently appear in the African violet plant, lead to confusion. For example, it is almost impossible to name and describe such varieties. In addition, the person who purchases immature plants may be bitterly disappointed when the plant blooms to find that the flowers are not at all what the description said they would be or what the grower advertised. The owner of such a plant may claim the grower has not sold him the correct plant variety and the grower ends up with a dissatisfied customer.

The above observations indicate that the African violet is a rather unique plant with respect to its color instability and that the color variations must be investigated if order is to be achieved from the now present and rapidly expanding chaotic condition. Simply presented, the problem asked by countless thousands of violet growers is: "What causes these color variations in the African violet?" To investigate this problem we need first of all to determine and list all possible known causes for variations observed in plants. Generally, all variations in plants are due to one of two fundamental phenomena. Variations may be due to differences in the inheritance of the plants. This is the case when one variety is crossed with another variety or when the flower of a plant is crossed with another flower on the same plant. The seeds formed as a result of such crosses may show considerable variation from plant to plant. Variations due to inheritance however should not be found between plants propagated from leaves of a single plant since, theoretically at least, the inheritance of every leaf and stem of a plant has the same inheritance. The observations of many people seem to affirm that variations do

occur. This, would seem to indicate that the INHERITANCE HAS CHANGED. If so, the change may have been brought about by injuring the cells of the leaf petiole when removing it for leaf propagation purposes. That such changes in inheritance can be induced by wounding has been demonstrated for some plants. Although some variations are probably due to inheritance changes we cannot assume that all color variations are brought about in this manner inasmuch as once such changes occur they should remain constant and should not revert to the original condition. Reversion commonly occurs and thus we have to look for other factors to explain the cause of the many different types of variations which are found in the African violet plant.

If inheritance is not involved in the variation then the second possible cause is growing conditions which reflect the action of some external environmental condition such as soil fertility, temperature, moisture, light or the action of molds, bacteria, viruses or other parasitic organisms.

At this point you are probably saying "How can these things affect the color of the flower?" To answer this question we need first to know that the blue, pink, red and violet colorations in the African violet flower are due to chemically related pigments located in the cells of the flower and that, experimentally, one pigment (for example, red) can be easily converted to another pigment (for example, blue). To digress from the point a minute, you may be interested to learn that, in the laboratory, it is possible to change a white flower to a bright yellow flower but as yet it is not possible to transmit the yellow color to other flowers of the same plant or to plants produced from seed. These pigments are known chemically as glucosides and are combinations of sugar (glucose) with a non-sugar chemical related to benzene. They are produced by the cells of the plant (all cells may be potentially capable of producing them) and while their production is basically inherited, the amounts produced and the distribution among the cells which make up the petals of the flowers may be influenced by environmental conditions.

The experimental work being conducted at Marshall College is concerned with the investigation of the specific effects of light, temperature, and differing amounts of nitrogen on the production of flower color variations. With the

above information concerning the composition of the pigments of the flower we have set up experiments to determine how much light, how much nitrogen, and how day and night temperature is involved in the appearance of color variations of the African violet flower. The experiments being conducted are based upon the following information which is known for other plants.

1. Sugar is manufactured by the green leaves of plants when the plants are exposed to light. The amount of sugar produced by the plant can be regulated by controlling the amount of light reaching the plant (both intensity of light and the number of hours of light given the plant each day).
2. The rate at which sugar is used by the plant and the way in which sugar is used by the plant is influenced by the amount of suitable nitrogen the plant has available as well as by the temperature of the air surrounding the plant. Thus under normal conditions, the sugar is used by the plant much as you and I use sugar -- as a food source for the construction of new plant parts such as leaves, stems, roots, flowers etc.. For such use, the

plant must have available a sufficient amount of nitrogen. If there is a low amount of nitrogen or if the nitrogen supplied to the plant is of the wrong sort chemically, much of the sugar produced by the plant is not used to build new plant parts but accumulates in the cells of the plant. Under these conditions more than the usual amount of sugar is converted into the blue, red, pink or violet pigments. Thus color variations might be produced by varying the relative amounts of sugar and nitrogen in the plants. Medium and low temperatures slow down the rate at which sugar is used by the plant so that under conditions where sugar is being produced at a rather rapid rate but where the low temperatures prevent its rapid use then we can obtain a similar condition where sugar accumulates and more-than-normal pigmentation occurs. We have observed in some of the experiments being conducted at Marshall College that a greater number of color variations occur in flowers located on a flower stem in a certain position with regard to other flowers on the same flowering stem. This is found most frequently on plants supplied with rather limited amounts of nitrogen. From our experiments now in progress we hope to be able to explain this effect.

Fourteen varieties of African violets were originally chosen by the Research Chairman, Mr. Peterson, for this work. These plants (more than six hundred in all) were propagated from leaf cuttings of but a single plant of each variety in order to insure that we were starting with plants of each variety which possessed the same inheritable ability to produce the flower pigments. The plants are being grown in the modern air-conditioned greenhouses at Marshall College where air temperatures can be carefully controlled. The plants are potted in washed quartz gravel and are fed at regular intervals with liquid fertilizers which have been formulated at Marshall College and are made up from pure chemicals. The experiments are being conducted on greenhouse benches equipped in such a way that it is possible to control the number of hours of light reaching the plants each day.

In some groups, fluorescent lighting is being used to increase the total number of hours of light each day, especially during the short days of winter.

From this work we hope to be able to tell the African Violet Society members not only something about the amount of fertilizer which will produce suitable growth and flowering, but also tell them what might be expected from plants being grown under different light conditions and temperature conditions in the home. Our primary aim, however, will be to determine the basis for the flower color variations encountered, the solution of which will bring to an end the confusion and uncertainty now found in registering and identifying varieties of this amazing plant.

THE END

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African Violets in Vancouver, Wash.

Anna Berg

When we rented the house we are now in, it proved to be excellent for flowers. I was all set to grow Gloxinias when a neighbor gave me two small African violet plants and some leaves. They presented a challenge. The harder the work is, the more I enjoy it. The first leaves were planted in sand and sphagnum moss in casserole dishes and covered. They were slow in starting, some were all of seven months, but those that behaved really went to town. They had five to seven plants each. None seemed to die and the rate of increase was as fast as rabbits. I really was in the African violet business!

It seemed fun, but I did begin to wonder what I would do with all of them. My husband brought home some twenty pound fish tins. They are $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" and will hold sixteen to twenty pots. The plants, being close together and deep in the pan, held the humidity about where it should be. As I use hot water, the steam gives them a shot in the arm as well. That first winter, rain water was used entirely. The plants were placed on tables, grouped in the bay window of the living room. It is not a deep bay, but the windows are wide and high. The house has eleven foot ceilings and the windows run seven feet. Both dining room and living room run together in one long room. Two large windows in the dining room and others along the entire east side of the living room provided more light. The light coming in from the top seems to be the secret and is now giving sufficient light for nearly 500 plants.

The plants are now on shelves above the tables as well as on the tables and the starts are on the floor. The very young plants need very little light. I use the south bay window for the plants that I want to bloom as they must have right light to start buds. After the buds are set, plants can be given less light or part of it electric light, as under a table lamp.

In using the south window, one has to judge the light each day, but in this country the atmosphere has such a blanket of moisture one can use light that would be ruinous in other sections. The fall presents more difficulties than other seasons. The declination is so low and the air so clear that the sun is really hot. It could cook an African violet leaf in no time. At such times, I use translucent white curtains. I tried a sheet at first. It was good but not heavy enough. It doesn't seem possible that the plants would receive enough light, but when the light is strong,

a little goes a long way. It shows why some have luck with north window exposure and some do not.

African violets do not require so much light after all, but they do want even temperature. Our biggest set back is uneven heat. We use oil, but do not make ourselves uncomfortable or run a fuel bill just for them. The oil heat is on from about November to April. In between times can be chilly for the two story barn of a house we live in can be chilly even in summer! That is why the petals drop so quickly on heavily blooming plants. African violets do not enjoy sudden changes in temperature. A range of sixty to seventy-two degrees is about right. They will tolerate many variations of this but if the range is fifty to eighty-five they become mere leaves in a pot. Just recently I heard a lady say she had had an African violet plant for four years and it had never bloomed. She asked me what to do for it. I shocked her by saying, "throw it out." To myself, I said, even more . . . that isn't an African violet, that is an evergreen shrub!

Certain varieties require more or less attention. Lovely pastels seem to require more food and are sensitive to wrong light exposures; the Fringettes more moisture and even heat. Pink Lady will pick up any bug around. If you are worried for fear there are aphids, or what have you, just check the pinks. Plum Satin with the bronze leaves and Fantasy are very susceptible to overwatering.

Many a plant that isn't doing well has simply had its roots rotted off making a top heavy situation and causing lack of bloom. It has been my experience that a healthy growing plant blooms. When I say, "growing," I mean just that . . . one that shows new leaves and buds, continually, until it comes to the end of the soil in that pot.

African violets have a dormant season. If we want to keep them from going into it we have to be on our toes. During the summer, I let mine get very dry then soak them thoroughly. They are apt to rot easily during hot weather and by drying them out I get a bit of dormancy and safety. Towards fall, they get good attention and buds start in all directions. The bloom usually holds through the winter months. It is extremely difficult to transplant small starts during the dormant season or in the heat of summer. I have a major transplanting period coming up. Hope I get it done before it's too

late. Leaves that were put in this month (September) started almost at once.

One can always learn new tricks no matter how old the subject. A lady gave me some leaves recently. I started them as I do my own and lost most of them. They were wonderful varieties, besides I didn't want to lose her gift. I could have wept! My leaves, planted at the same time, were fine. It came to me that one must know the plant from which the leaves were taken. I always have used a pinch of Hyponex or B1 solution in the glasses of water the leaves were put in. Now I play safe! I use a pan with no drainage, filled with a thin layer of peaty-compost covered with a thick layer of river sand. This is soaked until very firm. The leaves are cut back to one inch stem, dipped in Rootone and firmly planted up to the leaf edge. The plants

are kept in a fairly dark spot. Roots can show in three days!

In September, I raided my mother's collection and came home with some leaves and offshoots from eight more violets, so I now have a pretty good selection.

In October, I joined the African Violet Society and was so thrilled with the African Violet Magazine. My eyes have been opened in amazement at the extent of the Society and also the extent of the equipment offered by the advertisers. It makes me realize what an amateur I really am, but I don't care, my green thumb came naturally and I'm going to stick with it and maybe some day I'll have a plant I can bring to the Convention and be proud to say, "I grew it myself."

THE END



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GREENHOUSE GROWS
AFRICAN VIOLETS WORTH \$812

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LEAF ROOTING

Edna Betts Ketchum, Pasadena, Calif.

Experienced growers of Saintpaulias have their own methods of leaf propagation, so I think it best to state at the beginning that this short article is really for the beginner who is having difficulty getting the leaf stem to root.

The method most commonly employed, as you all probably know, is to place the leaf with its stem in a glass of water, using paper to keep the water from reaching the leaf. Roots form quicker, that is true, but so often the base of the stem rots before the roots appear. Then, another difficulty is encountered: if the stem does not rot and roots develop, they are long and often unbranched. If allowed to grow to any length, it is a difficult task to transfer the leaf without getting all these new roots in one jumbled mass.

This brings me to a description of my method of rooting leaves. I, too, have lost plenty of possible plantlets due to the rotting of the base of the stem; so to avoid heartaches, I turned to another method. My aim was to find a rooting medium that was exceptionally porous, sterile, moisture retentive, and conducive to the growth of a large root system. I realized that a sterile mixture meant that I would find it necessary to apply a nutrient solution when the roots formed; I also knew that such a porous mixture would mean frequent watering. But all this was better than losing so many leaves.

So, I combined a fine charcoal, coarse, washed sand, terra-lite (vermiculite) and sponge rock. And to prevent the sand from working its way out of the pot, I placed a piece of screening over the drainage hole topped by a small amount of sphagnum moss.

Now to go back to the leaf. With a sharp razor blade, I cut off a healthy, stiff leaf with a stem measuring approximately one and a half inches. I allowed this leaf to remain in the air from two to three hours before placing it in the rooting mixture. Such treatment resulted in a slight callous around the edge of the base of the stem, warding off possible rot before the appearance of roots.

The next step was to set the stem into the mixture to a depth of one-fourth inch or a little over, supported by two four inch wooden labels, tied to them with narrow strips of nylon hosiery. I might add that the labels were slanted backwards and the blade of the leaf placed against them.

Now, for the first time, the rooting mixture was watered, and I mean thoroughly saturated.

And from this point on, the rooting medium was never allowed to become dry. The little two inch pot (or you can use two and one-half inch) with its precious future plantlets, was placed in a light room where the daytime temperature remained around seventy degrees.

The last bit of information to give you concerning my method of propagating of the popular African violet by leaf rooting, can be stated in one sentence: If the leaf is still in a good, healthy condition at the end of three weeks, start feeding with a weak solution of your favorite fertilizer, increasing the strength when plantlets appear.

THE END

Rooted AFRICAN VIOLET Leaves

A postcard from you to me will bring by return mail my list of the best varieties — old — medium old — and very new.

**JAMES R. GILLETTE
169 WASHINGTON CIRCLE
LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS**



Mr. Herbert Niemann of Davenport, Iowa holds two plants he has growing in his favorite pumice stone pots he made himself. Left is Painted Girl and right Lavender Giant.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS BOON TO VIOLET GROWING

African violets will bloom without ever seeing so much as a single ray of sunlight!

It's very simple for Herbert Niemann of 2321 Wilkes Avenue, Davenport. Niemann grows his flowers electronically -- in the dark basement of his home.

Mr. Niemann is an African violet fancier, who started growing his "temperamental" African violets under artificial light several years ago. He found the violets liked this push-button sunlight, and now has perfected the artificial sunlight to the extent where he grows all his violets by that light.

A pattern maker by trade Mr. Niemann is no small "operator" when it comes to violets. He has about one thousand African violet plants, many of them blooming in all the wide ranges of purple, blue, pink and white violet colors. It's a hobby on a big scale for him.

He sells a few to make his hobby pay for itself. "But it's strictly not a business proposition by any means," he said.

Growing violets by artificial light takes a lot of the guesswork out of violet culture, Mr. Niemann says.

"I have fluorescent lights, with daylight tubes, over the growing beds in my basement. The lights are controlled by time clock. They turn on automatically at 6:15 in the morning and off at 9:30 at night.

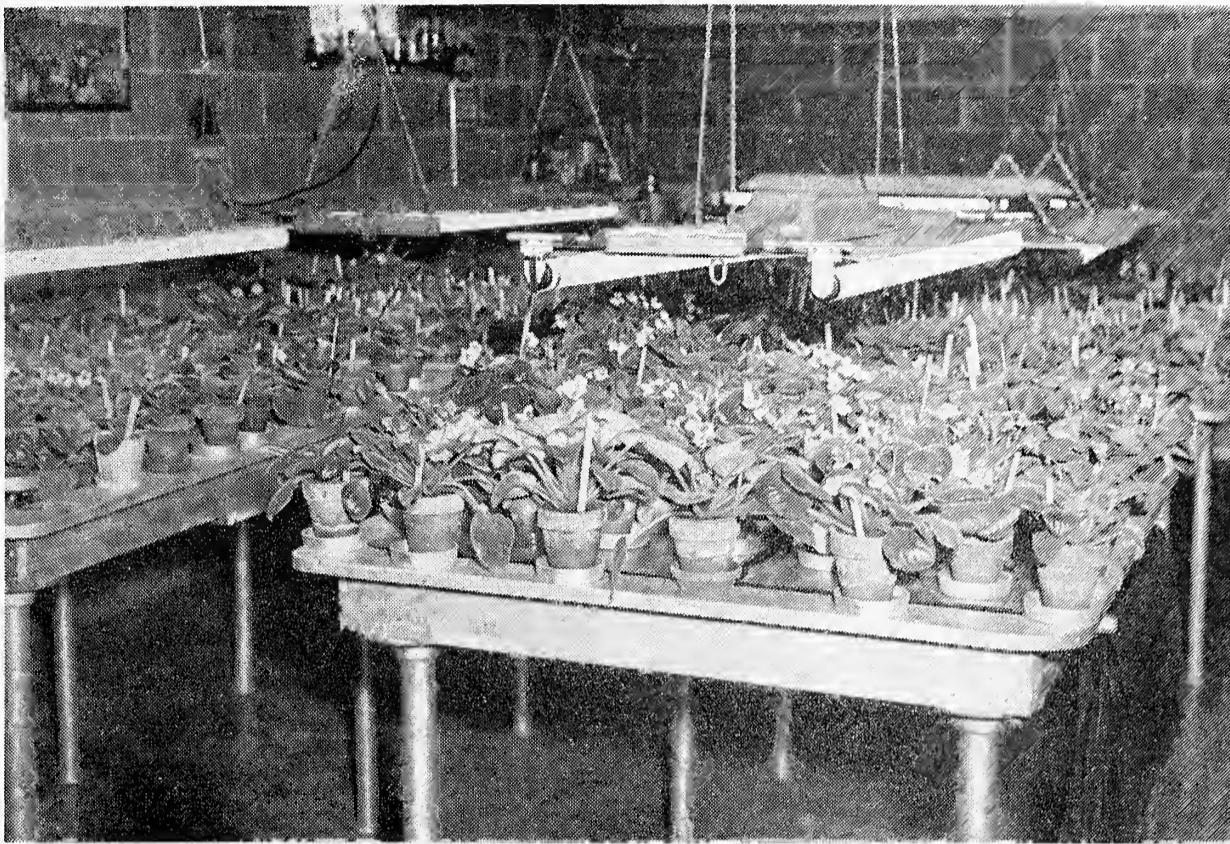
It gives me exact control over light. That's something you don't have when you grow violets in the kitchen window upstairs," Niemann added.

Mr. Niemann's violets, strong healthy plants with bright green leaves and profusion of blooms, prove that artificial light is a boon to violet growing.

Most of the violets never see sunlight, from the time they are tiny starter leaves until they're in bloom about six months later.

Mr. Niemann, while "sold" on artificial light for violets, does not say that regular sunlight is "no good."

"It's just harder that way," he explained. "A good picture window, facing the north, for in-



The electronic basement "farm."

stance, is excellent. But too many housewives bake their violets in sunlight. The sun on them must be subdued. It's not always the easiest way when you grow them around the house upstairs."

The Davenporter, who spends most of his sparetime hours in his basement calls the place his "farm."

"When I tell someone I'm going down to the lower forty, they know I'm going down to the basement to my violet 'farm,'" he laughed.

Mr. Niemann has also had remarkable luck in growing violets in pieces of pumice stone. He

buys the stone at a hardware store, and hollows out a hole for the plant.

"The stone is so porous it retains the moisture very well. And I also think there is something about the stone's quality that helps the plant," he explained.

While growing violets for many years, Mr. Niemann still thinks he has a lot to learn about the plant.

"Violet growing is still in its infancy. There is so much we don't know."

THE END

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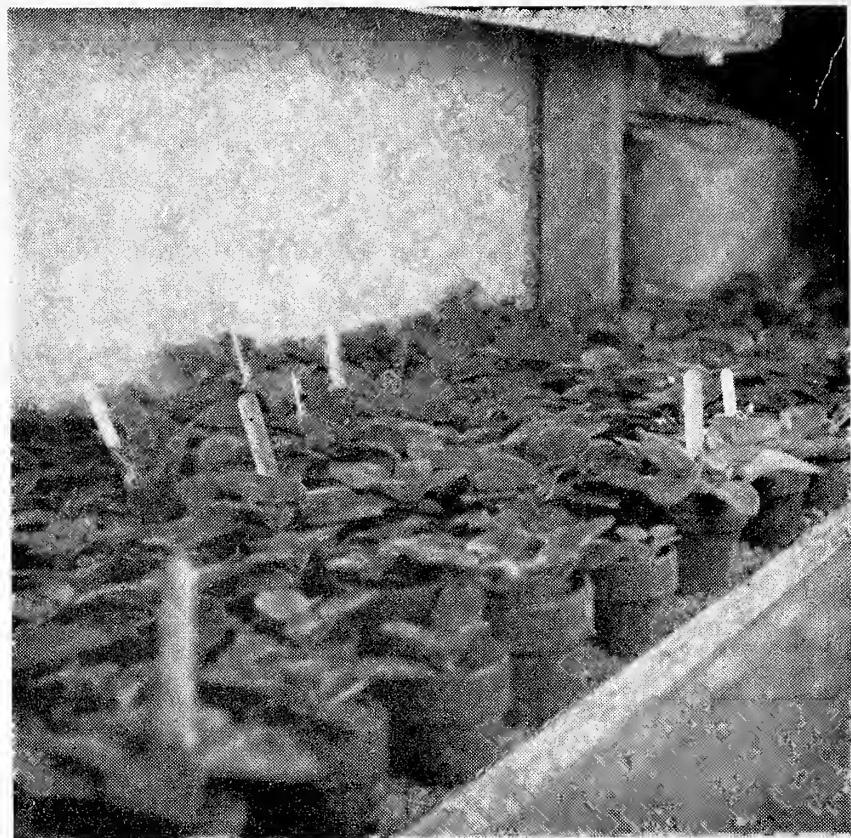
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An interesting view of a section of the furnace room plant shelf where Mrs. Holliger grows her small seedlings to mature plants.



I Like To Raise Them From Seed

Mrs. K. G. Holliger, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada



I guess I started off like everyone else, when I was given a plant of Blue Boy. I knew nothing about them, except that African violets are "sensitive." I had been quite successful with things like Strawberry Begonia, ferns, dwarf lemon trees, and so forth besides the garden flowers, so I thought it might not be too hard to tend an African violet.

I purchased two more that fall, which continued to bloom so nicely all winter that I thought it was going to be a cinch. Then one day I saw "things" on the soil in Blue Boy's pot, and I realized that I knew nothing about how to care for them, so I went to the public library for knowledge. There they had Montague Free's book, which told me how to treat the "things," which I now know were harmless springtails, feeding on the humus in the soil. However, in reading up on the culture of the African violet, I found I needed to know more, so began my collection of both books and plants. I now have over one hundred varieties, and have developed a strong curiosity about the possibilities of cross-breeding.

To start off, I began pollinating various plants in my collection. Having a decided preference for the pink tones, most of my crosses were on these. After trying quite a few, I found that some plants "took" better than others; some formed

Left: Mrs. Holliger with plant stand. Note ribbons the plants have won.

sterile pods, others rotted off before they ripened, some just didn't take, but I got nice large pods on Amazon Pink, and as it reacted best, I prefer it for seed parent.

Knowing that there are numerous pinks all very similar, I felt that I wanted to develop something different, if at all possible, and so I crossed Amazon Pink with pollen from Ruffled Queen, in the hope of developing a ruffled pink type. The pods on this cross were about half an inch long, and quite thick.

While I was waiting for these to ripen, I purchased some seed, so that I might experiment on the best method to start them. According to research at the Beltsville, Maryland, Department of Agriculture Station, seeds need an intensity of from 500 to 800 foot-candles of light, which can be obtained by placing them below two 40-watt fluorescent lamps at a distance of about one foot. Germination is best when held up close to the level of the lamps, supported by blocks, and as the seedlings grow and elongate, the pans are lowered as needed. Seedlings are started in fine-grade vermiculite, which provides a moist contact with the very fine seed. Excellent seedlings are produced when the temperature is maintained between sixty and sixty-eight degrees.

The first package I tried developed some twenty-five seedlings, but in handling them too early without knowing the knack, I lost all but seven, which are beginning to bloom at the time of writing this.

My second package, started three months later, was very successful, and from it there are over two hundred seedlings, with buds on about twenty, two of which are blooming, both white, seven months from the day they were planted. The majority of them, however, are smaller. This seed mixture was from Friendly Gardens, and I certainly have nothing but praise for their product. There must be about twenty-five with girl leaves, many like Fantasy's foliage, several like "Gorgeous," and a variety of ruffled, or long, or round, or bronzed foliage.

The seed from this second package was mixed with fine sand, and placed in a salt shaker. Then I sprinkled it over the surface of four boxes, three of which had been filled with sifted vermiculite, and the fourth contained sifted soil, covered with the fine vermiculite to a depth of about one-eighth inch. I covered the boxes with glass, to retain the humidity from the moist vermiculite, and placed them under the tubes of the fluorescent lamps about eight inches. They started sprouting in approximately two weeks, and continued for several weeks. I moved them as they grew, into a sand-soil-peatmoss mixture, setting them out when quite small in rows with the aid of tweezers. They were placed about ten inches below the lamps and when they reached a diameter of about one and a half inches, and crowded each other, I moved them into small pots with the soil mixture. The shelf on which they grow is close to the floor, in the furnace room, which

in winter is about seventy-five degrees, but in summer is about sixty-three with quite humid conditions.

During the time that these seedlings were growing on, my own cross-pollinated pods began to mature, and one was dried, opened and started as before. Of this pod there are forty-two seedlings, having characteristics of both Amazon Pink and Ruffled Queen. There are another eleven pods ripening, all of the same cross, and I also have five with Amazon Pink crossed with pollen from Dark Beauty, which is double. My aim on the latter cross, of course, is the elusive Double Pink. What are my chances?

THE END

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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

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1 3/4 inch starting pots	— 36 for \$2.20
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All pots listed are stepped design except 5" squatty. All have treated edges.

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Sterilized with LARVACIDE. Contains 45% flaky leafmold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Write for Quantity Prices.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85

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Preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves.

8 quarts \$1.00 — 24 quarts \$2.00

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4 in. Smooth wooden, painted — 100 for \$.75
500 for \$3.00

EVERMARK LABEL PENCILS, made especially for writing on all plant labels 20¢ each.

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Mrs. Kile

DESCRIPTION OF BASEMENT:

Size, 12' x 24'; one window, 18" x 32"; no outside entrance; almost entirely underground; walls, dirt covered with thin coat of plaster; ceiling is upstairs floor; floor, hard-packed dirt which stays damp all the time.

LIGHT FIXTURES:

From Sears, Roebuck; reflectors are white, porcelain lined, size 13½" x 48"; have

opened ends and are equipped with two 40 watt Westinghouse Daylight tubes; cost, \$19.95 each.

TABLES:

Rough boards, 3' x 10'; cost of material, about \$5.50 per table; tow light fixtures over each table.

POSITION OF LIGHT FIXTURES:

Hung so that the bottom is 15" above table top; burned 14 hours per day.

Basement Grown Violets

Lucille Kile, Knoxville, Tenn.

The above is a description of my "laboratory," which I have found is ideal for growing African violets. I began my big experiment last year soon after Christmas, when I installed my first fluorescent fixture. This experiment was brought on, quite naturally, by the usual violet lover's lack of enough window space for a growing collection.

I approached the basement with fear and trembling, for it was only fifty-seven degrees at the time. I took only a few young plants down at first -- those that were the more easily expendable, cuttings from some of my older, larger loves.

My experiments were so successful that I am passing on to you the following data, which I have gathered over the past year.

FLUORESCENT FIXTURES

Fixtures were hung so that the bottom light tube is fifteen inches above the table top and left burning fourteen hours a day is ideal for growing young plants. My young plants are potted in two and one-half inch pots, larger plants in four inch squatly pots. Plants grown under these lighting conditions are compact and bloom when very young. Of course, if one is using taller pots, the lights must be higher. Although I have concentrated on raising young

plants in my basement, I have moved some of my older plants down. The older ones in tall pots bloomed beautifully, but the foliage was not as good as plants in squat pots.

I did a great deal of experimenting with the height of the lighting fixtures before I reached my ideal height of fifteen inches . . . I found that with the tubes 17" above the table, burning for fourteen hours a day, the plants do not bloom so early or so good -- although they still bloom better than house grown plants.

There was also a great deal of experimenting with the length of time which the lights should be left burning. With the tubes the ideal fifteen inches above the table, and the lights burning eighteen hours a day, gorgeous plants were produced, with extremely broad leaves, very dark green on top and beet red underneath, with loads of blooms. These plants would be wonderful for exhibitions. But the plants are nice only so long as they are grown under the lights. When transferred to windows so that all could enjoy these specimens, the new growth was normal for the environment -- and what a contrast! The new center leaves were decidedly lighter in color and small in comparison to the fluorescent grown foliage. This gave the plants a peculiar, sick look. I thereby prefer plants grown under lights for fourteen hours a day. When they are brought upstairs to be enjoyed, the difference in growth is not so noticeable.

TEMPERATURE AND LIGHT

The usual basement temperature is around fifty-seven to sixty-three degrees. In the summer it rises to about seventy-six degrees, but the temperature is not affected too much by the outside temperature. There is never a sudden change. The humidity is another thing. The usual humidity is about eighty-five per cent, but the outside humidity does affect that of the basement, rising to ninety-five per cent on rainy days. However, the dirt floor is a help at stabilizing the humidity, maintaining at least seventy per cent during long, dry spells.

The plants evidently did not need too much ventilation in winter, for I kept the windows closed until spring. Then I opened them a few hours a day until all danger of frost was past, and the window was left opened until there was no danger of the temperature dropping below sixty degrees.

It should be mentioned that light is stronger in the middle of the table than along the edges. Plants left on edges very long will need turning. The edges are very good for growing plants of light foliage, or ones which tend to grow in tight rosettes. Plants are constantly watched for their reaction to light and are moved when needed. If the plant near the center becomes too flat or compact, it is moved toward the edge of the table. Plants with longer stems and more upright growth are moved toward the center. Plants with no buds are moved to the center.



Notice the size of the blossom on this young seedling.

SOIL AND WATER

As to soil, approximately three gallons of top soil, containing some horse and chicken manure, is screened through two and one-fourth mesh, dampened and baked in a covered roaster two and one-half hours at two hundred and fifty degrees. This is mixed in the following proportions: two parts soil, two parts peat moss (screened), one part vermiculite. Clay pots are used, with the edges dipped in paraffin. A layer of gravel, then a layer of sphagnum moss is placed in the bottom of the pot, and both are boiled for twenty minutes. Of course, used pots are scrubbed clean and also boiled for twenty minutes.

Plants are all watered entirely from the top with tepid water. I do not have to use saucers or trays under the pots, for the excess water simply drains to the dirt floor. Plants are examined every other day, but only plants that are dry on top are watered.

So far all propagating has been done upstairs, with plants being put under fluorescent lights after they are separated and potted individually or lined out in flats containing regular potting mixture with a layer of gravel in the bottom for drainage.

I root leaves in water and put them in vermiculite before plants are formed, or I root

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

1-A mixture 300 seeds \$1.00
11-E mixture, crosses of many varieties having girl type foliage 300 seeds \$2.00
6-D mixture, good doubles crossed on good singles, produces approximately 50 per cent doubles or semi doubles 150 seeds \$2.00
8-B our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00

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Not at all. But there is a danger that by the time you discover these minute, insidious pests the leaves may curl, small white cotton masses appear, plants shrivel and blooms stop. And "nobody loves a shrinking violet"—not even a *shrinking African Violet!* But the symptoms and hideous results often are easier to detect than the causes themselves.

For instance, mealy bugs are but a small fraction of an inch long. And the devastating cyclamen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They frequent the junction between the stalk and leaf—and feed on the underside of the leaf. Fortunately, they can be easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray—the special "ogen" insecticide that is so popular with both professional and amateur African Violet growers alike.

As it is an ovicide, Marvel Spray penetrates the waxy shells of these persistent enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Manufacturing Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose GROW-ers"). 5614-34 Ogen Building, Beacon, New York.



MARVEL Spray

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We do not ship retail but are happy to have visitors and sell retail at our greenhouses.

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NEWWAN, GEORGIA

directly in vermiculite. Plants are left in vermiculite until they have roots, and young plants can be moved without taking up the root of the mother leaf by gently holding the mother leaf with one hand and separating the young plant with the other hand. The roots of the mother leaf are thereby not disturbed, and the other babies are not shaded or crowded. Young plants are separated when approximately one inch high and set in flats approximately two inches apart. By the time they become crowded they have a good root system, and are moved to two and one-half inch pots with a large ball of soil. They suffer no set-backs.

If these young plants are placed under the lights, they will bloom in about five and one-half months from the time of starting the leaf. I have had the greatest success with these young plants, rooted in the kitchen, grown into blooming in the basement, then moved upstairs again for display. No apparent damage is done by moving the plant. All buds will open, but new ones will not form as fast as in the basement. As the plants cease to bloom as profusely, they are moved back to the basement, and new ones are brought up to take their place.

I took many of my old plants to the basement for rejuvenation, and they came back into full bloom immediately. They were beautiful, but they will never make nice plants, for the outer leaves had long stems, and the new center leaves grew very long on short stems, leaving a gap between the rows. These old plants had developed long stalks over the years and had to be potted deeper. They were in tall pots, which accounts for the long center growth and heavy blooming.

OVERFEEDING

In my enthusiasm I had some trouble from over-feeding the young plants. Eventually they were growing as fast as they could stand. Leaves grew so large and on such short stems that they overlapped and new center leaves could not come through. In some cases several crowns formed and had to be left alone while plants were moved to windows large enough for leaf stems to grow and let centers through. Then all crowns were removed except one, and as they grew, the short leaves were removed. About twenty plants were affected with overfeeding, but most grew out nicely from the center and have made attractive plants. I did not feed the plants for three months, however, during their period of recuperation. They are blooming without feeding, but there is room for improvement.

I have now added as many tables with lights in the basement as space will allow, and am considering "double deckers." What a joy to have beautiful, blooming, specimen plants all over my house for admiring guests to gaze upon, with replacements coming along in the basement when these cease to bloom! Not enough can be said for fluorescent lights and basement growing!

THE END

HONORARY AWARDS OF A.V.S.A.

Anna Layson, Chairman of Awards Committee

Maysville, Kentucky

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., owes much of its successful development to wise leadership and guidance and in appreciation of its conspicuous achievements the Society offers the following Honorary Awards in recognition of work of national or world-wide significance:

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP
CERTIFICATE
THE BRONZE MEDAL CERTIFI-
CATE
HONORARY ANNUAL MEMBER-
SHIP CERTIFICATE

One of the above awards may be given by the Society to a member or non-member who has rendered noteworthy service by outstanding effort in his specific field.

For stimulating interest in the growing and public showing of African violets by a municipal conservatory, garden center, or school.

Pre-eminence in judging African violets and offering suggestions for improving the staging of African Violet Shows.

Outstanding work in hybridizing new varieties of African violets.

The introduction of culture of African violets in medical therapy.

A beautiful private collection of African violets which inspires love for this popular house plant.

And various other projects which stimulate interest in the growing and showing of African violets.

Awards are given for an extended service or activity rather than a single effort.

The Awards Committee will be pleased to receive applications for awards for the purpose of evaluating the merit of the nominations. All nominations are requested to be kept secret.

Nominations should be accompanied by a full description of the project or work cited, as well as complete name of person or project. Nominations for awards should be received by the Awards Chairman not later than March 1 of each year.

THE END

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Opening of the Fourth Annual Montreal Show, held in Westmount.

SHOW & NEWS and VIEWS

MONTREAL CANADA

The African Violet Society of Greater Montreal is composed of the mother group and seven affiliated groups. These are the Summerlea, Two Mountains, South Shore, Parkville, Valois, Verdun and Sun Life African Violet Clubs. Membership in the combined group stands at well over three hundred.

During the year one open meeting is held in addition to the regular meetings, at which each of the groups is expected to take charge of at least ten minutes of the program. A Saintpaulia News Bulletin is issued twice yearly containing club news and other points of interest. All groups participate in the Annual Show, and this year the Society awarded a trophy for the most original display entered by an affiliated group.

Two of the members, Mrs. Merle Hardy and Miss M. Pick attended the National Convention and returned with glowing accounts of Southern hospitality.

The accompanying picture was taken at the Fourth Annual Show, and shows Mrs. Roy Campbell, the wife of the Mayor of West Mount, a suburb of Montreal where the show was held, and a group of the Society's officers at the official opening of the show.

NASHVILLE SHOW

It was truly a parade of African violets in all their glory when, on November 19 and 20, these beauties of nature were placed on display for the public. The show was under the sponsorship of the County Council of African Violet Clubs, composed of the seven Davidson County Clubs and the Wilson County African Violet Club.

The show was held in the Ballroom of the Hermitage Hotel, and because of the spaciousness, African violet enthusiasts were able to watch the parade go by, and enjoy every plant to their heart's content.

The show was directed by Mrs. W. C. Dalton, Council president; Mrs. E. I. Tuck, show chairman; Mrs. Frank Staley, staging; with Miss Jean Boggs, in charge of schedule; Mrs. K. B. Everly, entries; and Mrs. Sam Nichols, classification. A guest register was kept with Mrs. Jennie Leach in charge, with numerous guests registering both days. Ten lovely door prizes contributed by the clubs were given, one a lovely plate, handpainted and given by Mrs. Herman Pride.

The long west wall was lined with tiered tables covered with African violets of every color.

in both old and new varieties, single and double blossoms, a truly gorgeous parade it was. On the opposite side of the room club exhibits were displayed, some in naturalistic settings, others carried out the idea of the approaching Christmas season. The Tri-Color Award, a lovely silver bowl was won by the Donelson Club for their unusual window scene, a lovely plant peeking out each little window pane, with background lighting, and snow in one corner of each pane. The display drew a great deal of comment from the spectators.

The Gold Ribbon Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., for the best collection of three registered named varieties was won by Mrs. Nichols. The Purple Ribbon awarded by the National Organization for the second best collection was won by Mrs. Tuck. Sweepstakes Award, a lovely piece of sterling, was won by Mrs. E. I. Perdue with twenty-three blue ribbons. Mrs. Walter Midgett was runner-up with nineteen blue ribbons, Mrs. Midgett was also runner-up for the National Show held here in the spring.

Other tables displayed many unusual arrangements, including naturalistic settings, driftwood, unusual containers, fungus, and cut flowers. Violets bloomed in small openings in china cups, vases, brass carts, one even grew from the seat of a miniature chair, one from a cart, while others reposed in a doll cradle. Tri-Color winners in these classes were Mrs. T. M. Smoot, Mrs. Alex Taylor, and Mrs. Tuck. Miss Boggs won the Tri-Color in the Gesneriaceae family.

Another interest center was the table on African violet culture, from the raising of plants from leaves and seed, to the care of the sick and tired plants. Also in this space Mrs. Charles Bradley displayed her "family." "Papa" Neptune, "Mamma" Blue Eyed Beauty, and their children. One "Child" dark like "Papa," the other blond like "Mamma." There were three other children, but they as yet, hadn't bloomed to show their characteristics.

Judges were secured from Florence, Alabama; Ashland City, Oak Ridge and Memphis, Tennessee.

INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA SHOW

The Inglewood, California chapter held an "open-house" and "display," in August, 1953, that was open to the public for viewing the African violets that were so proudly exhibited by members of the local chapter.

The "open-house" type of exhibition was decided upon to enable the people of our community to enjoy the wonderful African violets grown in this area, and at the same time there was not a competitive contest among the members.

The "open-house" was well received by the people of Inglewood, as there was an attendance exceeding all expectations. A large percentage of the members participated, exhibiting one hundred and forty-five varieties of African violets. The displays were beautifully done in a



Left to right: Mrs. Perdue, Mrs. Dalton and Mrs. Midgett at Nashville Show.

setting of a violet-colored motif. The library of the Inglewood Recreation Center was curtained with violet draperies, and the table coverings and all background was done in violet coloring. There were displays showing the African violet propagation, with leaf-cuttings, young plants and matured plants that measured twenty-two inches across. Two lovely fluorescent displays were shown, comparing the different methods of growing plants. With the "open-house" there was a clinic for advising non-members on the growing of African violets.

The "open-house" was most successful and stimulated a lot of good will and interest in our town for African violets.

LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

The Little Rock African Violet Society of Little Rock, Arkansas held its Fifth Annual Show in the Wonder Bakery Hostess Room on November 18 and 19, 1953. It was staged under the supervision of Mrs. H. C. Thompson, assisted by several capable committees.

Ribbons were awarded for first, second and third place and special award for honorable mention in each class. Blue Ribbon winners were Mrs. J. T. Nolen, Mrs. Zelma Pierce, Mrs. H. C. Thompson, Mrs. Charles Hallman, Mrs. C. O. Clark, Mrs. R. B. Bidwell, Mrs. E. V. Moore, Mrs. Jackman and Mrs. Val Balsan.

Mrs. Thompson won the Sweepstakes award and Mrs. Pierce the Tri-color award and the first National gold ribbon award. Mrs. Moore had the largest plant entered in the show.

There were many interesting displays of violets in natural settings, novel containers and arrangements with violets predominating.

An interesting table was arranged by Mrs. Pierce on the methods of propagation.

GALENA SHOW

Over five hundred visitors from nine states attended Galena's first African Violet Display and Tea held in Community Hall in Galena, Illinois Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, sponsored by the Ladies Aid Society of the South Presbyterian Church of Galena.

Mrs. Jessie N. Strand, a member of the African Violet Society was General Chairman of the display. She was ably assisted by Mrs. Ray Brown, publicity chairman and Mrs. James Martin, staging chairman. All the ladies of the Aid, although dubious to the last, worked untiringly to make the display a success.

African violets, both old and new varieties, in a wide range of colors, were displayed on long tier tables covered with white and trimmed with orchid crepe paper. One hundred and fifty-seven entries consisting of sixty-two varieties really gave us the surprise of our life. Galena violet lovers had responded with much enthusiasm. I believe our own Galena people were the most surprised at the variety of violet plants shown, not realizing that these beautiful little creatures have so many fancy dresses. Galena has only three African Violet Society members, but we

are in hopes that we have created enough interest in African violets that we may be able to gain some new members and perhaps sometime organize a society.

The propagation table proved interesting to many. Methods of propagation of leaves were shown in various stages. Ingredients used in mixing African violet soil were shown, and mimeographed instructions on propagation and care of plants were distributed.

Tea or coffee and home-made cookies were served at the lace-covered refreshment table, centered by a beautiful autumn arrangement of gold and bronze "mums," donated by our local greenhouse. Antique silver tea services and white tapers further enhanced the table, while decorated sugar cubes and violet strewn napkins continued the general color scheme.

Our Display and Tea was a huge success and netted our church a tidy little sum. We charged a small fee of fifty cents. Gossip has it that we are to have another display and tea next year, but we are not sure whether Orchid Lady or Blue Boy started this gossip. It was probably Orchid Lady, but it could have been Tinted Girl because she was very popular at this party.

Roigina

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

African Violet Plant Food

IN CAPSULE FORM

Made Especially for African Violets

Safe and Easy to Use

DOES NOT CONTAIN POISON
OR ANY HARMFUL INGREDIENTS

Roigina African Violet Plant Food is manufactured in capsule form for greater convenience. The ORGANIC contents are an essential food for African Violets. Part of the food is available at once. The balance is available as the plant uses it. This promotes growth, blossoms and intensifies color when used as directed.

54 capsules \$1.00 prepaid

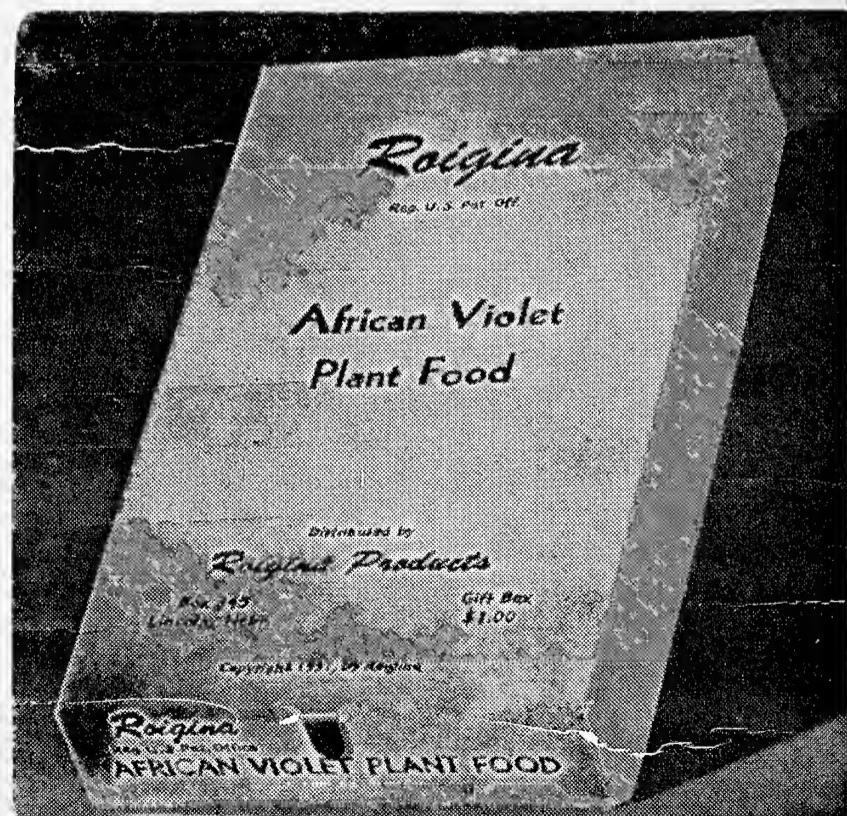
Free folder on care and culture of African Violets included.

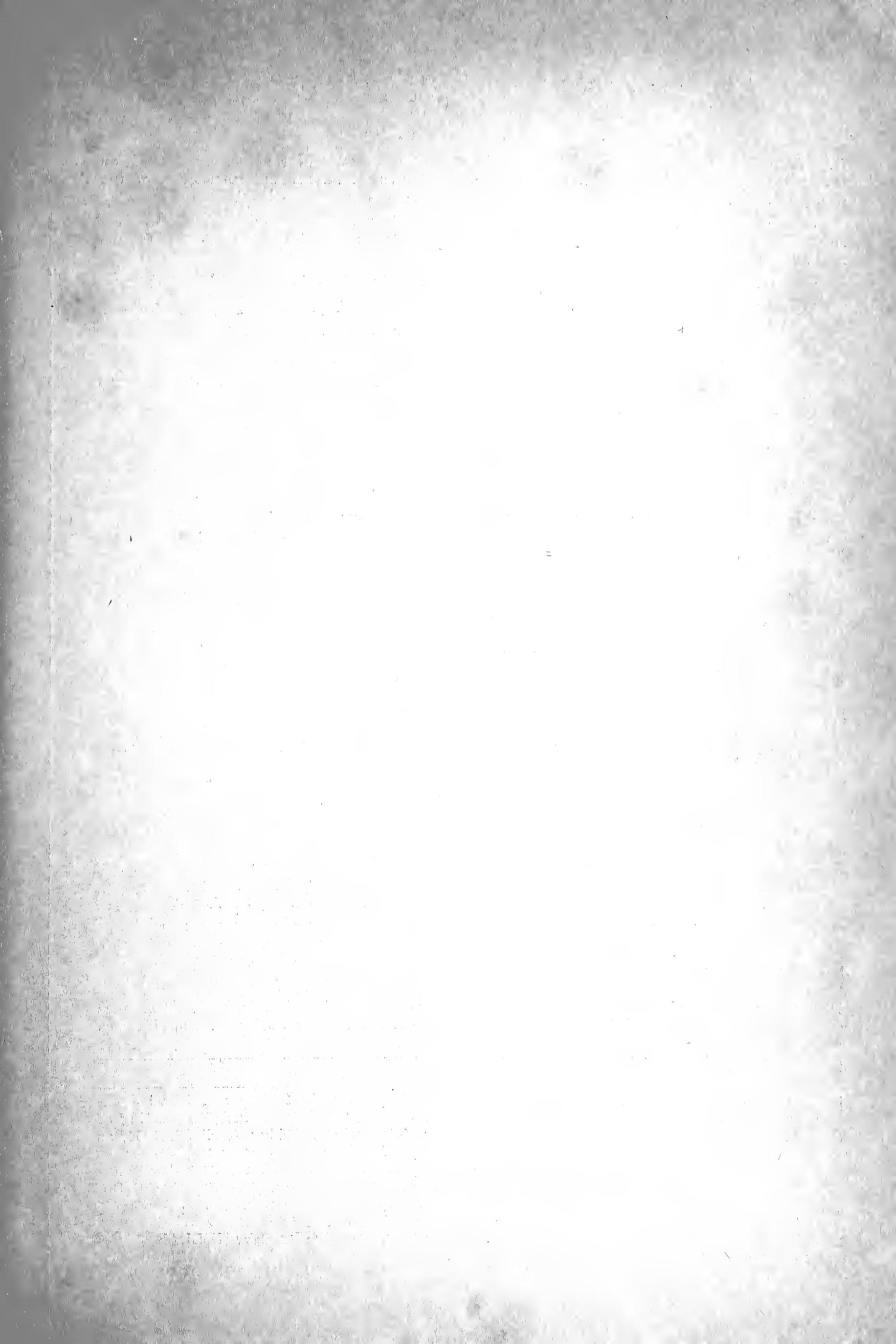
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ROIGINA PRODUCTS

Box 345

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AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

CALL FOR MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held on April 23, 1954 at the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, at 9:30 A. M. for the transaction of the following business:

- 1 - To elect a President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors-at-large. (See following ballot.)
- 2 - To hear the reports of Officers, Directors and Committees of the Society and to act thereon.
- 3 - To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

ADA MAGILL, President

THE REPORT of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee respectfully submit the following list of members as candidates for office to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, Friday April 23, 1954.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For President | Mrs. E. G. Magill, Ill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For 1st Vice-President | Mrs. H. W. Martin, Nebr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For 2nd Vice-President | H. G. Harvey, Ga. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Treasurer | Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Ohio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Recording Secretary | Mrs. James B. Carey, Tenn. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Membership Secretary | Mrs. George C. Mayer, Ill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Corresponding Secretary | Mrs. James R. Jones, Ill. |

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Vote for 4)

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Pat Crowe, Tenn. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Edward Jones, Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evan Roberts, Mich. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neil C. Miller, New Jersey |

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman, Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar, Iowa
Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, N. C.
Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Ohio

Mrs. Robert Wright, Tenn.
Floyd Johnson, N. Y.

PROXY FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please be sure and sign this proxy in order to make your mail ballot legal in accordance with Article III, Sections 9 and 10 of the By-Laws of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

I, _____
of _____ in the state of _____
hereby appoint the Proxy Committee consisting of Ferne Kellar, Myrtle Radtke and Floyd Johnson, my proxy; with full power of substitution to vote for me at the Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri, on Friday April 23, 1954, as fully as I could if personally present.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 1954.

Signature _____

Proxy ballots close at 12:00 noon April 1, 1954.
Please mail proxy to:

FERNE V. KELLAR
1223 E. OAK PARK
DES MOINES, IOWA

PROGRAM

"April in St. Louis"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

6:30 P. M.	
To	Registration
9:30 P. M.	Main Lobby

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 A. M.	
To	Registration
6:00 P. M.	Main Lobby
9:00 A. M.	Judging School Class
To	Chase Club
12:00 Noon	Ruth G. Carey, Fountain City, Tennessee, Chairman of Committee on Staging Shows.
1:00 P. M.	Short Tour St. Louis and Tea.
To	(For those attending Judging School.)
4:30 P. M.	
1:00 P. M.	Tour of St. Louis and Tea.
To	
3:00 P. M.	
To	Judging School Exam
4:30 P. M.	Chase Club
6:30 P. M.	Dinner Meeting
	Starlight Roof Garden
	Convention Convenes.
	H. G. Harvey, 2nd Vice President, Presiding.
	Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Harry Moeller, Cincinnati, Ohio.
	Invocation, Mrs. Samuel Rowe, Aurora, Illinois.
	Welcome to St. Louis.
	Introduction of Convention Co-Chairman,
	Mrs. Albert Zimmerman, Webster Groves, Missouri.
	Mrs. Ralph Traubel, St. Louis, Missouri.
	Introduction of Program Chairman,
	Mrs. H. W. Martin, Omaha, Nebraska.
	Presentation of National President,
	Mrs. E. G. Magill, Aurora, Illinois.
	"IDLE THOUGHTS OF A DIRT GARDENER,"
	Harry O'Brien, Worthington, Ohio.
9:30 P. M.	Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only.)
To	Amateur Show
11:00 P. M.	Regency Room
	Commercial Exhibit
	Adele Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

8:00 A. M.		
To	Registration	Main Lobby
6:00 P. M.		
9:00 A. M.	Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only.)	
To	Amateur Show	Regency Room
11:30 A. M.	Commercial Exhibit	Adele Room
9:30 A. M.	Morning Meeting	Chase Club
	Mrs. William Douglas, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Presiding.	
	Invocation, Ada Magill, President, Aurora, Illinois.	
	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	
	"SOIL STERILIZATION," Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey.	
1:00 P. M.	Luncheon Meeting	Chase Club
	Mrs. J. W. Minehan, Binghamton, New York, Presiding.	
	Invocation, Mrs. Lee Howard, Columbus, Ohio.	
	Introduction of Affiliated Chapter Chairman, Mrs. Samuel Rowe, Aurora, Illinois.	
	"COLCHICINE," Oliver Pease, Akron, Ohio.	
	"HEREDITY OF AFRICAN VIOLETS," Dr. Sheldon C. Reed, St. Paul, Minnesota.	
4:00 P. M.	Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only.)	
To	Amateur Show	Regency Room
6:00 P. M.	Commercial Exhibit	Adele Room
6:30 P. M.	Banquet Meeting	Chase Club
	Ada Magill, President, Presiding.	
	Invocation, Floyd Johnson, Canandaigua, New York.	
	"GARDENING UNDER GLASS," Ernest Chabot, Irvington, New York.	
	African Violet Society of America Awards for 1953, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chairman of Awards Committee, Maysville, Kentucky.	
9:30 P. M.	Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only.)	
To	Amateur Show	Regency Room
11:00 P. M.	Commercial Exhibit	Adele Room

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

9:30 A. M.	Morning Meeting	Starlight Roof Garden
	Mrs. Connie Hansen, Lafayette, California, Presiding.	
	Invocation, Mrs. James Jones, Woodstock, Illinois.	
	"THE ABC's OF AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING," Mrs. George Pendleton, Kansas City, Missouri.	
	"NEMATODE RESEARCH," Dr. M. B. Linford, Department of Horticulture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.	



ADVANCE REGISTRATION BLANK

Name _____

Address _____

Registration for the entire Convention including the Show, one luncheon meeting, one dinner meeting and one banquet meeting is \$18.00.

Please send your reservation in before April 1, 1954. If you cannot attend the entire Convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for.

Thursday Dinner Meeting	\$4.50
Friday Luncheon Meeting	\$3.50
Friday Banquet Meeting	\$5.00
Registration fee for entire Convention	\$5.00
Registration fee for one day only	\$3.00

SIGN and send your meeting reservation not later than April 1, 1954, to the Reservations Chairman:

MRS. THELMA USINGER
1020 EAST OAKLAND AVENUE
WEBSTER GROVES 19, MISSOURI

Reservations will not be honored without remittance. Do assist the committee and simplify registration by sending a check or money order with your reservation. Your tickets, badge, program, etc. will be ready for you on your arrival. If circumstances make it necessary to change your plans, contact the Registration Chairman before the Convention opens, and your money will be refunded.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

SPECIAL MENU NOTICE

The management of the Chase Hotel requests that if fish is desired for Friday meals that you check the enclosure and mail it in to Mrs. Usinger with your reservation.

- Fish for Friday Luncheon Meeting and Banquet.
 Special Diabetic Meals.

TOUR

THURSDAY APRIL 22, 1954

Tour of St. Louis, Shaws Garden and Tea \$1.00 (1:15 P. M. to 4:00 P. M.)

Short tour of Shaws Garden and Tea \$1.00 (for those attending Judging School) (1:00 P. M. to 3:00 P. M.)

Reservation may not be cancelled after April 10, 1954.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR JUDGING SCHOOL

CHASE HOTEL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1954

Class will be held from 9:00 A. M. to 12:00 A. M. with the examination in the afternoon from 3:00 P. M. to 4:30 P. M. Registration fee \$1.00.

Name _____

Address _____

Sign the above blank and send your registration fee of \$1.00 to Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee not later than April 1, 1954 if you wish to attend the judging school. Members whose certificates have expired may renew them and new judges will be qualified. **MAKE REGISTRATION FEE CHECK PAYABLE TO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA.**

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All requests for hotel accommodations for the African Violet Society of America's Annual Meeting should be made to the Chase Hotel.

CHASE HOTEL

212 N. KINGSHIGHWAY

ST. LOUIS 8, MISSOURI

Please reserve the following hotel accommodations for my party in the name of

Name _____

Address _____

Please indicate the number and type of room requested. Guest rates are

_____ Single room \$7.00 \$8.00 \$9.00 \$10.00

_____ Twin-Bed Room \$9.00 \$10.00 \$11.00 \$12.00

_____ 2 Room Suite \$18.00 and up

_____ 3 Room Suite \$32.00 and up

The Chase Hotel cannot guarantee any specific rate, but will attempt to assign accommodations requested.

Reservations will be held until 6:00 P. M. unless otherwise notified.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be made between 2:00 -- 5:00 P. M., Wednesday, April 21, 1954 and Thursday, April 22, 1954, between 10:00 A. M., and 5:00 P. M. Judging will be from 6:30 -- 8:30 P. M.
2. Plants arriving too late to be entered will be shown for exhibition only.
3. Only clean healthy plants will be accepted, and must have been in the exhibitor's possession at least three months.
4. An exhibitor can make only one entry in each variety (that is, one Blue Boy, one Pink Cheer, etc.)
5. Each variety entered must be correctly named or subject to correction by the Classification Committee.
6. The Society will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any loss.
7. All plants entered in Division 1, Class 1 through 14 must be single crown plants.
8. If an exhibit is not entered by the owner, the name of such person making the entry must be on the back of the entry card.
9. For uniformity all pots in the specimen classes must be covered with aluminum foil. Exhibitors are to print their names on adhesive tape, and attach to bottom of foil covered pots.
10. All entries in both the Amateur Show and Commercial Exhibits may be removed from 11:00 -- 12:00 P. M., Friday, April 23, 1954, and from 9:00 -- 12:00 A. M., Saturday, April 24, 1954. In order to provide protection to the exhibitors, the amateur exhibitor's membership card must be checked against the entry card.
11. The show will be judged on the merit basis, and the decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified judges of the Society will be permitted to judge.
12. Only St. Louis and St. Louis County Clubs, will be permitted to enter in Class 14. Clubs with members desiring to compete for this award must make application to the Corresponding Secretary of "African Violet Society of America, Inc.," 30 days in advance of show date, stating that they are conforming to the requirements of the National Society in the giving of Gold and Purple Ribbons at the local shows. Each of these plants will be point scored by the judges, and must score 90 points.
13. All club year books entered in Class 23 must be sent to Mrs. W. F. Moch, 149 E. Drake Ave., Webster Groves 19, Missouri, not later than April 19, 1954. These books must be no larger than 5 x 8 inches, being the same as all club members receive, and once entered become the property of the Society and will not be returned. It is not compulsory for clubs entering year books to be Affiliated with the National Society.

SOCIETY AWARDS

THE SILVER CUP of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be awarded to the best registered named variety of African violet in the specimen classes (Class 1 through 11) of the amateur division of Convention Show.

AWARD OF MERIT RIBBON will be given to the runner-up or second best registered named variety in the specimen classes. (Class 1 through 11.)

HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON will be given to the third best registered named variety in the specimen classes. (Class 1 through 11.)

SPECIAL AWARDS

ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES SILVER BOWL AWARD will be given by Popular Gardening Magazine to the winner of the most blue ribbons, or firsts, in the specimen classes of the amateur division. (Class 1 through 14.)

GEORGE W. KOCH SONS COMPANY AWARD to the runner-up of the Silver Cup, a metal plant stand.

TINARI FLORAL GARDENS AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen of the named variety, Clementine.

ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD of \$25.00 for best specimen of the named variety, Alma Wright.

BOYCE M. EDENS PLANT AWARD. A cash award of \$25.00 will be given by Mrs. Sam Nichols for the best plant of the named variety Boyce M. Edens.

TUBE CRAFT FLORAL CART AWARD for three specimen plants: (1 true purple, 1 pink and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points, each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks and whites.

GRANGER GARDENS AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen of the named variety, White Madonna.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CROSS HYBRID AWARD sponsored by the Research Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Members or non-members of the Society will be awarded \$25.00 for the best entry of a plant, or plants, resulting from a cross of any genus of the Gesneria family, like Achimenes or Gloxinias on the genus Saintpaulia (African violet). This exhibit to be judged by the Research Committee and must give visual indication that it is a successful cross genus hybrid showing some characteristics of the other Gesneria hybrid.

YEAR BOOK AWARDS given by the African Violet Magazine for the best year books of any African Violet Club.

FIRST PRIZE \$5.00

SECOND PRIZE \$3.00

THIRD PRIZE \$2.00

SHOW SCHEDULE

"APRIL IN ST. LOUIS"

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STAGED BY — ST. LOUIS AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS

CHASE HOTEL — ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI — APRIL 22, 23, 24, 1954.

AMATEUR DIVISION

SECTION I Specimen plants (classes 1 through 11 must be single crowned named African violets)

- | | |
|---------|---|
| CLASS 1 | Dark Blues or Purples |
| 2 | Medium Blues |
| 3 | Light Blues |
| 4 | Reds to Violets |
| 5 | Lavenders and Orchids |
| 6 | Bi-Colors (such as Bi-Color, Violet Beauty) |
| 7 | Two Tones (variegated, such as Painted Girl, Geneva, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, etc.) |
| 8 | Pinks |
| 9 | Whites |
| 10 | Duponts, Amazons and Supremes |
| 11 | Doubles |
| 12 | Novelties (albinos, variegated foliages, miniatures, etc.) |
| 13 | Specimen Seedlings (never exhibited before at a National Convention Show) |
| 14 | Collection of 3 registered different named varieties -- single crown plants (See Rule 12) |
| 15 | Specimen plant African violet species, (such as S. grotei, S. tongwensis, etc.) |
| 16 | Specimen plant Gesneriaceae family. (Achimenes, Episcias, Gloxinias, etc.) |

SECTION II Arrangements

- | | |
|----------|--|
| CLASS 17 | Plants exhibited in unusual containers, (such as driftwood, bubble bowls, antiques, brass, pottery, etc.) |
| 18 | Artistic arrangements of a collection of 3 -- 12 plants |
| 19 | Arrangements (container 3 -- 6 inches in width or height, cut flowers and any foliage permitted -- African violets must predominate) |
| 20 | Violets in combination with other plants |
| 21 | Arrangement suggesting theme of the show -- "April in St. Louis" |

SECTION III Educational (by invitation)

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| CLASS 22 | Plant propagation |
| 23 | Year Books (See Rule 13) |

By-Laws of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Organized November 8, 1946

Incorporated June 30, 1947

To be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting, April 23, 1954

ARTICLE I

Section 1

This Society shall be known as the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Section 2

It shall have a corporate seal, the form of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and which shall be deposited with the President of the Society.

Section 3

The Society shall be and exist as a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II

Objects

Section 1

The objects of the Society shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the African violet (Saintpaulia); to stimulate a widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets everywhere; to encourage the origination of improved varieties of African violets; to promote ways and means for widespread distribution of all varieties and species of African violets among its members and others interested in growing them; and to gather and publish reliable, practical information concerning the culture and propagation of African violets.

ARTICLE III

Members and Voting

Section 1

All persons who are interested in the African violet shall be eligible to membership in the Society, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The Directors may revoke the membership and refund dues of any member for just cause or for any other reason deemed in the best interest of the Society.

Section 2

There shall be six (6) classes of membership in the Society known as Individual, Commercial, Research, Sustaining, Life, and Honorary.

Section 3

Individual Members . . . Individual members pay \$3.00 per year (a year may be any twelve month period) or \$8.50 for three years, payable in advance. A joint membership with one voting privilege may be held by husband and wife.

Section 4

Commercial Members . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be Commercial members. They shall pay \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelve month period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$3.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

Section 5

Research Members . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelve month period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

Section 6

Sustaining Members . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelve month period).

Section 7

Life Members . . . The payment of \$50.00 or more shall entitle any person to Life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

Section 8

Honorary Members . . . Any person may be given an honorary annual membership in the Society by the Awards

Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 9

Each member of the Society shall be entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the Society, and any member may vote by proxy. Husband and wife holding a joint membership are entitled to only one vote.

Section 10

Proxies . . . Any person who acts under a proxy shall vote in accordance with the member's instructions.

ARTICLE IV

Government

Section 1

The Officers of the Society shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2

Board of Directors . . . There shall also be a Board of Directors which shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Society at large, one of whom shall be a resident of the Dominion of Canada. At the Annual Meeting of the Society four Directors shall be elected for three years. The Officers named in Section 1 of this Article; the immediate past President of the Society, and the Chairmen of all Standing Committees shall also serve as members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3

Executive Committee . . . During such time as the Board of Directors shall not be in meeting assembled, all of the Officers of the Society and the Editor of Publications shall constitute the Executive Committee. Said Executive Committee shall have and exercise authority of the Board of Directors in the management and operation of the Society.

Section 4

Councilors . . . There shall be one or more Councilors for each State and the Provinces of Canada.

Section 5

Nominating Committee . . . This Committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Society. Two Past Presidents of the Society shall serve as two of the five members, and all five shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors. All five members of the Committee shall serve for two years next following their appointment. The President shall announce the names of the members of the Committee at each Annual Meeting.

Section 6

Standing Committees . . . The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the following Standing Chairmen: Publications, Affiliated Chapters, Convention, Registration, Awards, Research, Staging Shows and such other standing committees as may be required in the operation of the Society.

Section 7

Vacancies . . . In case any vacancy in the Board of Directors, Officers, Councilors and Standing Committees may occur, the President shall have the power to fill such vacancies until the next Annual Meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE V

Duties of Officers,

Board of Directors and Committees

Section 1

President . . . The President shall have general superintendence of the affairs of the Society; shall preside at all meetings of the Membership, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee; shall keep informed of all work of the Society and shall make such reports thereon to the Board of Directors and to the membership of the Society as may be deemed necessary or as the Board may require.

Section 2

Vice Presidents . . . The First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the latter or whenever the President may be unable or unwilling to perform the duties of this office. The Second Vice President shall serve as President in the absence of the President and the First Vice President, or whenever either of the latter may be unable or unwilling to perform the duties of their respective offices.

Section 3

Recording Secretary . . . The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate, properly recorded minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and of all Annual or Special meetings of the Membership.

Section 4

Corresponding Secretary . . . The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct such official correspondence of the Society as the Board of Directors may authorize.

Section 5

Treasurer . . . The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Society and shall pay out all such monies, by check only, to cover those expenses of the Society that are included in the Annual Operating Budget. All checks issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President, or by the First Vice President in the absence or inability of the President to act in such capacity. In emergency any two of the three Officers named above may sign and co-sign Society checks.

The Treasurer shall keep an accurate Book Record of all monies of the Society that are received and disbursed; and shall render such financial reports of the monies received and disbursed, and of all related transactions, as the Board of Directors shall require.

The Treasurer shall prepare the Annual Operating Budget of the Society in sufficient and comprehensive detail which shall cover the total cost of operations of the Society for the ensuing calendar year. The total of the Budget may include a sum to cover the negotiable traveling expenses of the Officers and Chairmen of the standing committees while engaged in travel on essential business of the Society, as authorized by the President. The Annual Operating Budget must be approved by the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer shall be bonded for such sum as the Board of Directors shall authorize. An audit of the Treasurer's Book Record, and of supporting and related records shall be made of each calendar year's financial operations of the Society by a Certified Public Accountant. The report of such audit shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting each year. The premium of the bond and the cost of the audit shall be included in the Annual Operating Budget.

Section 6

Board of Directors . . . The entire management and operation of the Society shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Directors shall make a report to the Membership of their services performed during the previous year at each Annual Meeting.

Section 7

Councilors . . . The Councilors shall be appointed by the President. They shall serve in the promotion of the activities of the Society; assist in obtaining new members and renewal of memberships; and assist the Officers in matters pertaining to their respective Regions. They may develop local Clubs or Societies within their respective Regions; make recommendations to the Nominating Committee and carry on any other activities to further the purposes of the Society. They may visit members and Local Societies in their respective Regions where possible and expedient; assist the Editor in obtaining desirable material for publications; and offer suggestions for the betterment of the Society. Councilors may hold other office in the Society.

Section 8

Editor . . . The Board of Directors shall appoint an Editor of Publications of the Society and such Editor may be a person holding other office in the Society. The Editor shall prepare and issue all publications of the Society that the Board of Directors may authorize to be published.

Section 9

Nominating Committee . . . The Nominating Committee shall nominate members of the Society to fill the positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and members of the Board of Directors. The Committee shall report all nominations to the Editor of Publications in ample time for publication in the Magazine preceding the Annual Meeting and to the Annual Meeting where all elections shall be held.

Section 10

Standing Committees . . . The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall prescribe and assign the duties of all Standing and Special Committees of the Society.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1

Annual Meeting . . . The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place each year as the Board of Directors shall determine. Special meetings not to exceed two in any one calendar year may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or by the President. Fifty (50) members of the Society shall constitute a quorum at all Annual or Special Meetings.

Section 2

Board of Directors . . . Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon the call of the President, or the Directors may establish regular dates for meetings. Meetings of the Board also may be called by a request therefor signed by a majority of the members of the Board and filed with the Secretary, who shall thereupon call a meeting of the Board. Four members of the Board, not including Ex officio members, shall constitute a quorum at all meetings.

Section 3

Executive Committee . . . The Executive Committee may meet any time at the call of the President of the Society.

Section 4

Notices of Board Meetings . . . Notices of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be sent by the President at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting.

Section 5

Notices of Annual Meetings of Membership . . . Notices of all Annual and Special Meetings of the Membership of the Society shall be sent, upon the authorization of the President, at least thirty days in advance of the date of such meetings. All such notices shall state the time and place of the meetings and the business to be transacted. All such notices may be sent by mail to each member, addressed to his last known residence or business address; or such notices may be given to each member by publication in the African Violet Magazine, provided such issue of the Magazine is published and mailed at least thirty days in advance of the date of the meeting to the last known home or business address of each member of the Society.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

Section 1

The President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership. Their terms of office shall begin January 1st of the year next ensuing.

Section 2

The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to serve for three years, at the Annual Meeting, as provided in Article IV, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII

Funds

Section 1

The current funds of the Society shall be expended by the Treasurer as provided in Section 5, Article V of these By-Laws.

Section 2

Neither the Board of Directors, nor anyone delegated by them, nor any of the Officers, shall incur any debt or liability in the name of the Society beyond the available or maturing funds in the hands of the Treasurer, excluding the money or securities held for specific purposes.

Section 3

All monies received for Life Membership dues shall be invested by the Treasurer, as directed by the Board of Directors, and only the interest accruing therefrom shall be used for the current expenses of the Society.

ARTICLE IX

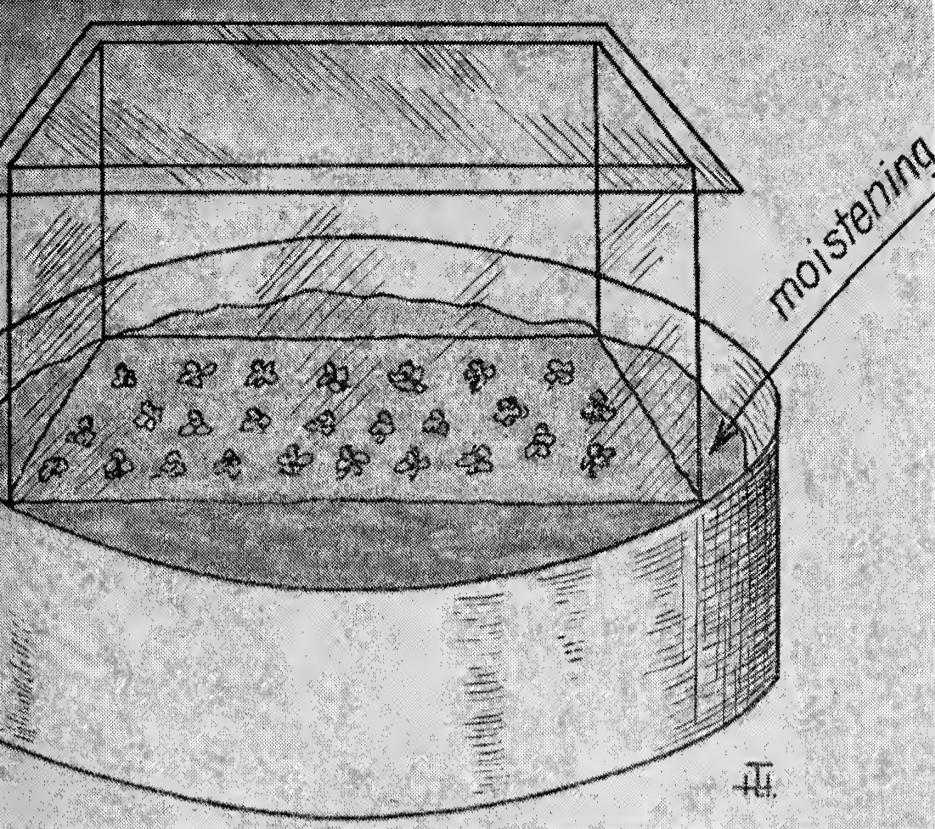
Amendments

Section 1

These By-laws may be amended or altered or repealed by the Membership of the Society at any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting by an affirmative vote of two thirds of all members present and voting, either in person or by proxy, at such meeting; provided notice of the meeting and a copy of such amendment or alteration shall have been given the members of the Society in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 5 of these By-laws.

Section 2

Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall be used in all meetings of the Society to cover questions not provided for in these By-Laws.



Drawing of the miniature greenhouse in which the young plants grew so well.

Through correspondence with Mrs. Elizabeth Barghoorn, New Haven, Connecticut, a distant relative, Miss Heldegard Barghoorn of Achen, Germany was able to obtain Saintpaulia seeds from Friendly Gardens. The packages contained seeds of "mixed singles" and "doubles crossed on singles." Because I like to grow plants and flowers Miss Barghoorn kindly gave me the precious package of African violet seeds to plant. Herewith I report about the results.

It was not possible to secure vermiculite as it is unknown in Germany -- so like quantities of fine sand and sifted peat moss were used. Two dishes, as shown in the picture, were prepared and filled with the growing mixture in which to plant the seeds. To make them watertight all edges were stopped up with putty. Then the dust like seeds were evenly spread over the growing medium and a pane of glass placed over the top to hold in the humidity. Moisture was supplied daily in very small amounts and once each week a small amount of commercial fertilizer was used. During the day the dishes were placed near the heating unit and at night in a thermostat which could be regulated so that the seeds received a most favorable growing temperature of seventy to eighty degrees Fahrenheit.

According to the planting directions the first green shoots should appear in about twelve days, and that is what happened. Soon both dishes were green . . . As only half of the seeds were used from each package -- the other half being kept as a reserve in case of failure -- I was most pleased with the results. More than one hundred small plants were grown from this planting.

As the tiny seedlings grew larger and formed small leaves they were hardened off by removing the pane of glass which covered the dish top.

Saintpaulias in Germany

Dr. Phil E. F. Vangerow, Achen, Germany

At first this cover was removed for short periods of time each day and then as the plants grew sturdier the cover was removed for good. The strongest plants were transplanted into small pots when about three months old. The growing medium remained the same and once each week the small plants were fertilized with one grain mairol to one liter of water.

Transplanting all these "youngsters" took several months and often more than one grew in a pot at the same time. Seven months later all the young plants were transplanted a second time and this time each plant was placed in a pot by itself. I was most pleasantly surprised at how well they transplanted as not one plant was lost through the moving procedure though a few leaves and roots were broken off.

The size of these seedlings is most interesting as some have grown off very fast while others are slow and only now are just getting started well. Some will be in flower in December.

At first the young plants all looked the same but with the appearance of the third set of little leaves remarkable difference in foliage began to be evident. There was much difference in form and shape at this early stage -- some leaves were round, others oblong, others heart-shaped and some had smooth edges and others had toothed edges. Variation also was evident in coloring and quilting and the form of the plants varies from compact growth with short stemmed leaves to loosened growth with long hanging leaves.

Indeed it is with great impatience that we wait for these seedlings to bloom. Because here in Germany we know only the single blue-violet forms of the Saintpaulia.

Finally I wish to mention that the few very small leaves that were broken off during transplanting were put in a sand and water filled pan where they rooted and have grown several plantlets.

Friends and relatives are highly interested in these seedlings and some have asked for plants to grow and observe in their homes. Everyone who sees them enjoys their beautiful flowers and it is hoped that they may soon become more widely known and grown in our country.

THE END



Mrs. Follet

INTERESTING VARIETIES

Dorothy Follet, Binghamton, N. Y.

I have heard it rumored that many persons are now going back to the lovely old standards because of the mix-up in varieties and I feel that it is a good thing. I enjoy having the oddities or collector's items just as everyone else does but for sheer color and beauty, some of the new improvements lack what the older varieties can give so freely.

At the present time, my personal Queen of the Show is Jessie. For six months it has put forth forty or more blossoms at a time. The amethyst blossoms are not very large but average about eight on a stem. For sheer color it can't be beaten. This is also called West Coast Amethyst and Pink Amethyst.

Another one that is not nearly so prolific but just as lovely is For-Get-Me-Not. The blue blossoms against the dark rounded foliage are a true picture. It too, has been blooming for a long, long time.

This spring when I was in Rochester, I stopped at Gent's and found the nicest Geneva yet. It is called Rippling Geneva. The foliage is similar to Rippling Blue except that the red reverse to the leaves gives it more color. The blossom has a very pronounced white edge, much plainer than

any Geneva I have ever seen and it doesn't lose the edge periodically. It hasn't stopped blooming since I got it though it doesn't have more than ten of the medium blue blossoms at one time. The older Genevas were quite scant with their blossoms.

Frosty may be an oddity but at present mine is quite lovely. It had turned almost fully green when Mr. Weeks told me that was a sign that it wasn't getting enough light. So I put it in my brightest spot and at present it has a perfectly white center of leaves with the darker green fringe around the whole plant. It is striking to say the least. The blossom is a very delicate white with a lavender blue edge. It suckers very freely and should be kept free of new side growth.

Sunrise is another old standard that I will never be without. A darker shade than Jessie, it is really almost a so-called red. It grows small to medium in size with many, many blossoms that literally cover the foliage. The foliage isn't spectacular but has a small pointed, slightly scooped leaf that is dark enough to make a good foil for the rest of the bloom.

Orchid Sunset is a good double that has recently come into bloom and I find it exceedingly worth while. The foliage is plain but very dark and glossy and the blossoms are a huge, fully double reddish lavender.

Pink Cheer is still my favorite pink. Seldom without bloom and then only when left in a dark corner, it has enough blue in the pink to make it dark and vibrant. The foliage is dark, plain and slightly cupped. The blossoms are huge and frequently sport to a six petaled flower.

DuPont Red is nice but I think could stand improvement. The blossoms are fairly large, not so large as the similar Congo Queen, but the plant is very slow growing and slow blooming and not many at a time. Have hopes for the new Red Princess to be the longed for improvement.

A new one in bloom is Queen of Hearts. It has rounded girl leaves, a very dark bronzy shade of leaf and a full reddish flower. Situated right next to Velvet Girl, it does not show to advantage as they are very similar except for the shape of the leaf. I shall continue growing them side by side and have added others of a similar type and shall try to find the one I feel is the best all around plant with red blossom and girl foliage.

Double Light Blue I am discarding in favor of Delight. I do not have Corsage but hope someday to be able to compare them for their most outstanding characteristics.

Alma Wright grows fairly small for me and blossoms prolifically. The blossoms are a pure white in a strong light and have a chartreuse center. It is different from the other double whites in foliage and bloom characteristics but the reason it appeals to me is its dwarf characteristics.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

The Newest of the New and Best of the Old
Plants and Leaves

THE VIOLET HOUSE

E. Pearle Turner

828 Kenmore Blvd.

Akron 14, Ohio

A BEGINNER'S COLLECTION

Prepared by Mesdames Carl Schober, N. J.; Julia Moore, N. J.; Arthur Bostwick, Mich.; Rose Trendler, Ill.; Samuel Rowe, Ill.; O. H. Oehlers, Wisc.; Carl Schee, Mo.; and Roy Roberts, California. Members of Unit No. 127 of Homing Pigeon Department, African Violet Society of America.

Code:

Foliage—

t. tailored

q. quilted

sp. spooned

s. shiny

f. frilled

g. girl type

cont. contrast between blossom and foliage.

Blossom—

b. blossom

Small numbers after the name of violet indicate number of votes that variety received from the eight members participating.

PURPLE

t. s. Commodore 2, Dickens Purple 1.

g. s. Roseonna Purple Crest 1 (Outstanding foliage), Lady Loretta 1.

f. Ballerina Bolero 1.

REDDISH PURPLE

t. Mentor Boy 2.

t. s. Neptune 1.

LIGHT BLUE

t. s. Blue Eyes 2, Hardee's Blue 1, Blue Dream 1.

t. Gorgeous Blue Wonder 3, Forget-me-not 1.

g. s. Sailor Girl 5, Easter Bonnet 1 (West Coast Var.), Blue Lady 1.

cont. Blue Waterlily 1.

f. Lt. Blue Fringette 1.

MEDIUM BLUE

t. s. Norseman 3, Blue Warrior 2 (lg), Rose Purple 1.

t. s. q. Kay's Quilted 1 (lg).

DARK BLUE

t. Blue Boy 4, Blue Moon 1, Blue Bobby 1, Viking 1, No. 32 1, Crinkles 1, and Admiral.

g. s. Sherry Girl 1, (West Coast Var.), Gypsie Girl 1.

LIGHT LAVENDER

t. s. Amethyst 6.

t. Jessie 6, Orchid Lady 1, Violet Beauty 5, Lav. Beauty 4, Lovely Lady 1.

g. s. Lav. Girl 2, Enchantress 1.

LIGHT LAVENDER AND ORCHID

t. s. Bicolor 4, Orchid Wonder (lg) 4.

t. s. q. Gorgeous Bicolor 1 (Outstanding foliage and bloom).

RED or DARK ORCHID

t. Red King 6, Firefly 1.

g. Roseonna Red Crest 1, Velvet Girl 1 (sm), Red Girl 1, Orchid Girl 1, Sea Foam 1, Freda 1.

f. Wine Velvet 2, Red Lav. Fringette 1, Roseonna Frill 1.

sp. Fuschia Spoon 1, Lancaster Red 1, Spooned Gorgeous 1.

Note: Calif. prefers Plum Glory to Wine Velvet.

PINK

t. Pink Beauty 8, Pink Luster 3, Pink Attraction 1, Pink Sunburst 1.

g. Pink Girl 4.

cont. Pink Cheer 6, Pink Delight 6.

VERY LIGHT PINK

t. Blushing Maiden 3.

WHITE

t. Snow Prince 4, White Lady 5.

g. Snow Girl 2, Snow Queen 2.

cont. Innocence 5.

f. White Fringette 2 (Frail for several of us).

VARIEGATED WHITE

t. Blue Eyed Beauty 2, White Hybrid 2, Geneva Star 1, Blue Delight 2.

Also see Novelty plants.

DOUBLES

White

t. Purity 5, Alma Wright 2.

Purple

t. s. Db. Neptune 5, f. Db. Margaret 2.

Orchid

t. s. Db. Neptune 2, Orchid Sunset 1, H. Wilson Bouquet 1.

g. Orchid Girl 1, t. Regal Wine 1.

Lt. Blue

t. Db. Delight 2, Grand Award 1.

g. Sailors Delight 3, Sea Girl 2.

Med. Blue

Apolla 1.

Dk. Blue

Db. Dipper 1.

Red Violet

Ruby Bouquet 1.

VARIEGATED DOUBLES

White and Blue

t. Azure Beauty 6.

White and Rose

t. Db. Rose or Rose Azure 2, Rainbow Rose 1, Silver Lining 1.

White and Medium Blue

t. Snow Line 1.

White and Dark Blue

t. Dark Beauty 1.

DUPONTS

Blue

g. Blue Heiress 3, t. DuPont Blue 2.

Lt. Blue

t. America 1.

Lt. Lav. Pink

t. Apple Blossom 1, t. Lav. Pink 1 or Ohio Giant.

Purple

f. Lacy Girl 2 (sm), Ruffled Queen (lg).

Note: Many varieties come in Supreme or Amazon type which are similar to the DuPonts. As a rule slow growers and sparse bloomers but beautiful.

MINIATURES

Lt. Blue

t. Tear Drop 1, Dolly Dimple 1 (West Coast).

Orchid

g. Ruffled Beauty 3, Bronze Elf 1.

Purple

t. Five Dots 1.

NOVELTY PLANTS

Lady Geneva 5, t. b. deep purple with white edge.

Rainbow Geneva 2, t. b. lavender with white edge elongated.

Blue Butterfly 1, t. b. lt. blue.

Holly or Ruffles 2, f. Very dark foliage.

Fantasy 4, t. b. splashed with purple.

Painted Girl 2, g. b. white with dark orchid edge and trim.

Star Sapphire 4, t. b. med. blue star shaped with many stamens.

Mauve Fringette 2, f. dainty frilled lavender-pink.

Brussels Sprouts 3, f. b. silver green on underside deep purple in center. Tight bloom that doesn't open too wide.

Frosty 1, t. Variegated green and white foliage. b. light blue.

Crazy Quilt 1, t. oddly marked leaves b. light blue.

SPECIE PLANTS

Ionantha 2, t. Lt. blue.

Grotei 2, t. Creeper, b. blue violet.

Diplotricha 2 or Kewensis, s. light green, b. (sm.) light blue.

TRY CRAYONS FOR COLORING CLAY POTS



Solange Slivka, Fayette, Ohio

Crayons for coloring flower pots are very fine. I have been coloring my pots this way for some time. It is so easy to do if you take the flat side of a crayon -- the color or colors you prefer and lightly go over the outside of the pot with a heavier application on the rim area. If you want a deeper color go over it a second time -- being careful to apply the color as evenly as possible. The crayon makes a waxy finish and seals the pot to some extent -- so that you do not have to water so often.

I do not like paraffin for the edges of pots, it will in time mold, sometimes the paraffin will peel, but the crayon does not. Even your young-

Mrs. Slivka

sters can put the color on the pots, to them it will be a game and you will be surprised at what a good job of coloring they can do. You can slightly melt a number of different colors together and get a marble effect, which is very good. Putting the pots in hot water to water the plant does not seem to melt the crayon coloring. I have had these colored pots in use for two years and no ill effects.

THE END

DREAMS DO COME TRUE ! ! !

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

If you asked me "What connection does a dream have to the idea of A.A.V.S (American African Violet Selections)?" I can tell you very quickly. For several years I have felt the need of the African Violet Society of America, Incorporated to publish annually the names of the African violets which win most "BEST IN SHOW" Awards as well as top winners of the National Gold and Purple Awards from Affiliated Societies all over the U. S. A. My dream now comes a step nearer realization.

Having turned in the suggestion of an Annual A.A.V.S. to Floyd Johnson, president, at the National African Violet Convention in 1953, I hardly expected to ever hear anything from it, but was really thrilled when Alma Wright, Editor of the African Violet Magazine wrote "Your idea is good -- will you take the assignment?" Of course I would! I answered immediately to the effect that I just could not find the word "no" in the English dictionary so I would gladly accept the assignment.

Then followed many weeks of mailing postal cards to the presidents of the one hundred and eighty-eight Affiliated Chapters. The response was enlightening, many of the clubs promptly sent me the information which I requested so as to have a complete tally. Several clubs reported they were too "young" to have a 1953 show, some reported they had a lovely display of violets -- lots of interest and they planned to have a competitive show next year with judging for "Best" and National Awards too.

I can assure you every moment of my work with the tally for A.A.V.S. was very happily spent. I found the Affiliated Society members' enthusiasm unbounding and believe that with their full co-operation in the next few years we can make this tally one which every National club member will look forward to receiving. Our very first tally is complete. YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A DREAM WITH A BETTER ENDING!

THE END

TALLEY OF AMERICAN AFRICAN VIOLET SELECTIONS (A.A.V.S)

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

This is the first Talley ever conducted by the African Violet Society of America, Inc., and as the name implies it is a talley of "BEST IN SHOW" winners and also top winners of the National Gold and Purple Awards from the Affiliated clubs all over the United States during the year 1953.

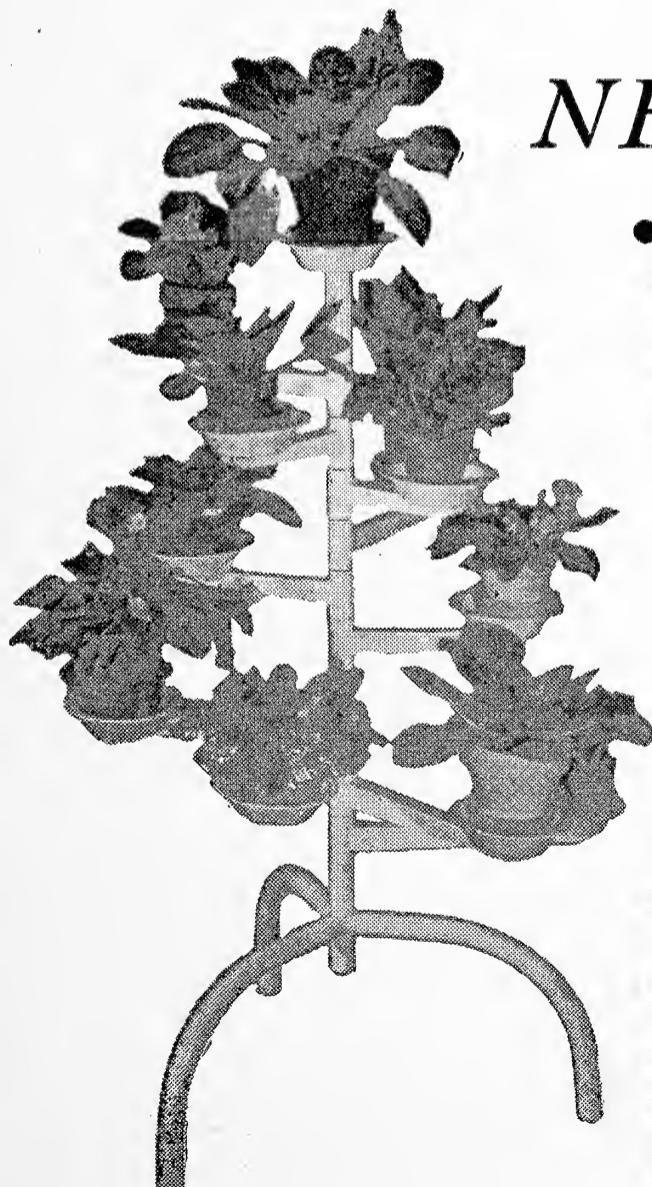
The limited space available for this article makes it impossible to list all of the winners or the names of the Affiliated groups which sent in the information, therefore we give you below the names of the first five top winning African violets in each class in the order in which the varieties scored.

"BEST IN SHOW"

1 Double Rose ✓

- 2 Orchid Sunset
 - 3 Bi-Color ✓
 - 4 Red King ✓
 - 5 Orchid Beauty - Trilby ✓
- National Gold Award
- 1 Mentor Boy ✓
 - 2 Commodore
 - 3 Double Neptune
 - 4 Painted Girl ✓
 - 5 Snow Prince
- National Purple Award
- 1 Navy Bouquet
 - 2 Double Rose ✓
 - 3 Lavender Beauty
 - 4 Sailor Girl ✓
 - 5 Red Wings

THE END



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- Presented First Time at National African Violet Convention, Hotel Sherman, Chicago.
- Will Not Tip or Tilt!
- Holds 11 plants, 10 on revolving arms.

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YOUNGSTERS AND SAINTPAULIA

Florence T. Foltz, Lewistown, Pa.

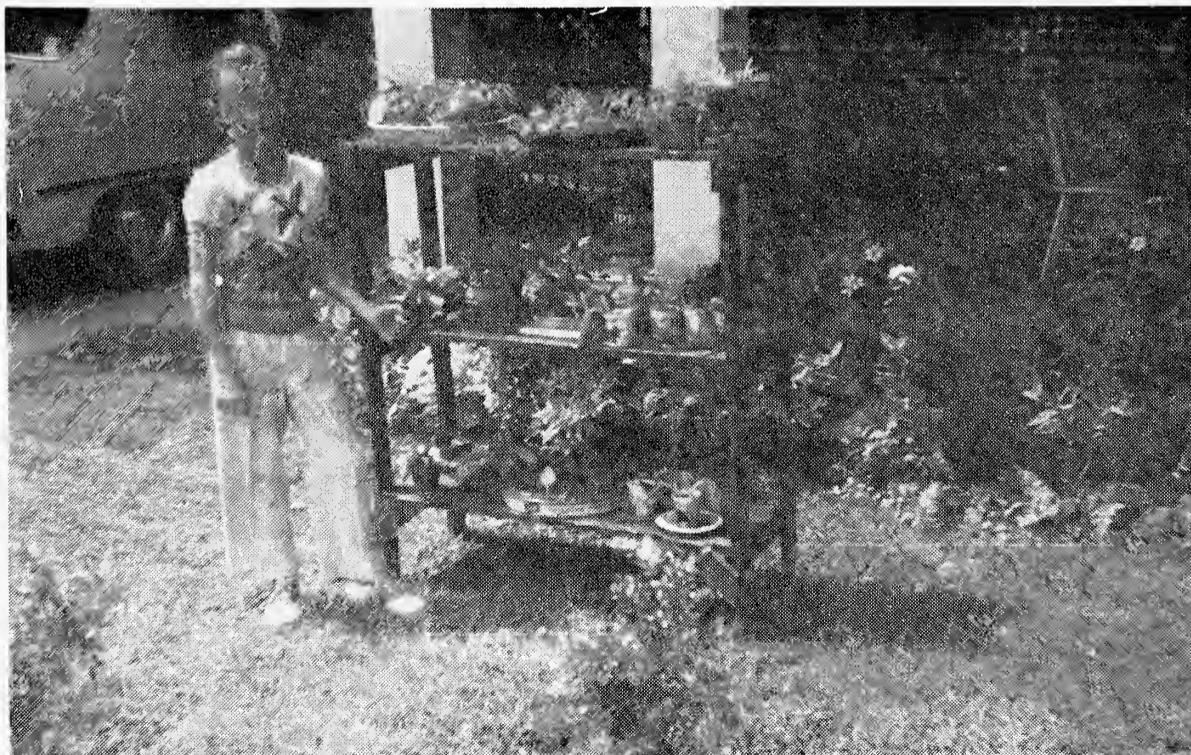
One of Mr. Edens' last and fondest dreams was to give recognition to the many youngsters who are interested in Saintpaulia. Shortly before his death he was quite impressed with a letter received from Mrs. William Willumsen of the Canal Zone, which contained the membership dues for a young friend. He forwarded the letter to our editor, suggesting that she have someone "write a story" for the magazine, and I got the assignment. Because a subsequent letter tells the story so much better than I could I am going to quote directly from it.

"James K. Will is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Will, his twin brother, William L. Will preceding him into the world by eighteen minutes on March 3, 1942. He has two sisters aged nine and four years, and two other brothers five and two years. Jimmy is a thoroughly ambitious, conscientious youngster. His ambition in life is to be a scientific farmer and he is planning on further education along these lines. He at present loves to plant, tend and grow vegetables as well as flowers. When his family was on a Stateside vacation in 1951 the very same day they arrived at their destination, Jimmy had a garden planted. He was able to produce some lovely tomatoes and string beans, but had to be content to leave his corn just before it was ready to harvest. Jimmy is also a promising young carpenter having made from scrap lumber his own violet shelves. Jimmy became interested in my violet collection some time ago. He has helped me screen and mix my earth, sterilize same, plant leaves, transplant plants, spray and tend my violet collection as well as the cleaning up end on

scrubbing and sterilizing the pots. I have helped him start his collection which now consists of some forty plants, which he alone takes care of. While I was away from home for seven weeks, on a vacation to the States, Jimmy tended my collection of over four hundred violets and I cannot sing his praises too loud on the excellent care he gave them. Jimmy has read and studied Helen Wilson's African violet book, is always happy to find and discuss any literature that comes to hand on African violets. His enthusiastic interest and good care of my collection is what prompted me to apply for his membership in the Society, as a small reward justly earned. A nicer, more polite, and interesting youngster would be very hard to find; he is a real pleasure to be with."

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to report this because I live just thirty miles from Mrs. Willumsen's home town of Mill Creek, Pennsylvania, and although Mr. Edens did not have the slightest idea that Edna and I were friends, we had a nice visit while she was home.

I have given plants to a number of young friends and it is always a pleasure to hear their various reports. Recently eight year-old Stevie Strickland brought a plant out to show me which he had raised from a leaf I had given him some months before. He was delighted with it; so was I. My most recent Saintpaulia convert is my little nine year-old niece, Jane Kramer. Her mother . . . my sister . . . was never interested in flowers and I was so pleased when Jane wanted a "Violet" for her room. It grew so nicely that on her last



James K. Will with his plant stand in the yard of his home, Cristobal, Canal Zone.

visit home she took ten more plants along. But what pleased me most was her remark to my mother, "Grandma, I believe I must have 'a little of Green Thumb' like Aunt Florence."

It will take only the slightest encouragement from us for these children to develop a real and lasting interest in Saintpaulia and I know the National Society joins me in wishing continued success to our future leaders. Mr. Edens' dream is coming true.

THE END

1954 CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri

April 22, 23, 24

SUPPLIES for AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

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Miller's GREENPLAST 110 for \$1.00

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NNOR	6-oz.	\$1.35
Sodium Selenate	12 caps	\$1.00
Lindane	1-lb.	\$1.10
Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.		

FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp, Others.

FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

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GLASS WICKING

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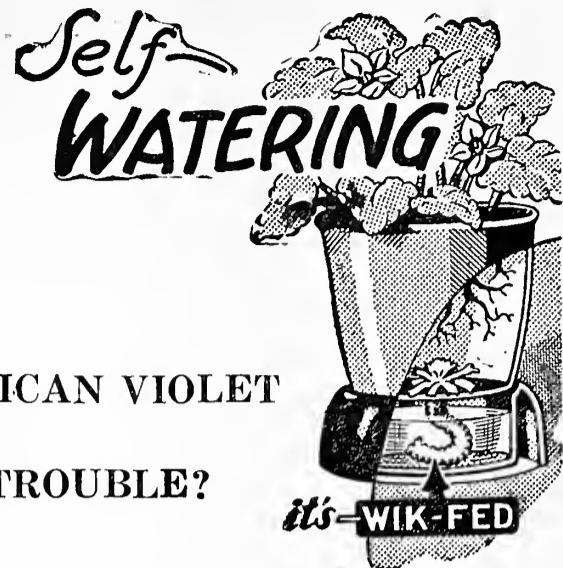
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Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List too.

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HOUSE PLANTS DYING BECAUSE
YOU FORGOT TO WATER THEM?

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The new, scientific, sub-irrigating flower pot. Ideal for African violets and other house plants. Feeds moisture and plant food in solution directly to roots through FiberGlass Wick.

Water only once each 7 to 10 days.
Made of strong tough Styron plastic in 12 beautiful colors.

SPECIFY COLOR COMBINATIONS:
MARBLED RED, GREEN, YELLOW, BLUE, PINK, CLEAR IVORY, MOTTLED LAVENDER, BRONZE, CORAL, CHARTREUSE, CANYON GREY AND BLACK TOPS. BASES: BLACK, DARK GREEN AND BRONZE.

4" pots, 2 for \$2.25, 4 for \$4.00 6 for \$5.75
ppd. 5" pots, 2 for \$3.25, 4 for \$6.25 6 for
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REASONABLE PRICES — NO SHIPPING

Plants for resale also

LYKE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

EAST BETHANY, NEW YORK

Rt. 63, 6 Miles Southeast of Batavia

MY METHOD WITH VIOLETS

Mae Urbanek, Lusk, Wyoming

My home is in Wyoming, where the winters are cold and the summers dry and hot, which makes the atmosphere in my home always dry. Since African violets prefer a humid temperature, in the winter time I always keep two large tea kettles of water on top of our oil-burning heater, and in the summer often spray the air with water. I like a warm house and keep the temperature near eighty degrees, which is supposed to be too high, but by starting my plants from leaves and growing them in this environment, I find they do very nicely.

Since we live on a ranch, I mix my potting soil from equal parts of leaf mold (in the fall I put leaves in an old tub sunk in the ground and layer them with earth), well-aged cow manure, and sandy garden soil. I add a handful of bone meal to a pail of this mixture, which fills the lower two-thirds of my pots. The upper third of the pot is filled with the sandy garden soil in which I plant the well-rooted leaves. As the plant grows larger, the roots grow down to the richer soil. I do not fertilize, but only repot once a year.

I start the leaves in colored bottles of water. The narrow necks keep the leaves from getting in the water; and the tiny roots like the darkness of the bottle. I keep my plants in north windows, or in east or west windows where curtains may be drawn to keep off direct sunshine. It is important that no draft strikes the plants. I water thoroughly from the top when the soil becomes dryish and never let the base of the pot stand in water. My blossoms are generous and continuous.

THE END

GOING TO ST. LOUIS ? ? ?

WE ARE

YES, just as certain as there will be a Convention, We will be there; and with a truckload of brand new African Violets for you to take back home.

- SEE YOU THERE -

JOHN R. GENT & SON, Inc.

WEBSTER, NEW YORK

— We Do Not Ship —

THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Thelma Price, W. Columbia, S. C.

T 'was in the month of September . . . Nineteen hundred fifty-one . . . The Columbia Society organized . . . To share their Violet fun . . . Only seven members present . . . A small number it is true . . . But there seemed to be no limit . . . What those ladies could do . . . Officers were duly elected . . . To fill each official post . . . We wrote By-Laws, made rules . . . The ones we needed most . . . We meet together once a month . . . Our programs are well planned . . . We gladly welcome visitors . . . No violet lovers banned . . . The Saintpaulia we study hard . . . About plants, the soil, the pot . . . And all the things that we should do . . . And the things that we should not . . . The violet is most sensitive . . . And as modest as can be . . . It well deserves the love . . . Enthusiasts give it -- you see . . . Be sure it gets no direct sun . . . Yet plenty, of good strong light . . . Feed balanced plant food now and then . . . The buds will burst in sight . . . When the lovely blossoms open . . . Pink, orchid white and blue . . . They are so very beautiful . . . You'll want all the doubles too . . . One time we held a clinic . . . Believe it now or not . . . And performed many operations on . . . Plants sick with crown rot . . . We hold frequent open discussions . . . Ask many kinds of question too . . . We believe in -- if you help me . . . I will want to help you . . . Yes, we do have yearly dues . . . But they are very small . . . You hardly miss a dollar . . . When there is violet fun for all . . . We also have a sunshine fund . . . With money in the till . . . This buys gifts for new babies . . . Or for members who are ill . . . Then comes the many birthdays . . . Of each and every member . . . We honor with leaf cuttings . . . To show them we remember . . . Now during our first year . . . We'd like for you to know . . . Our violet booth took First . . . At the spring flower show . . . All our members are congenial . . . As friendly as can be . . . And each time we have a meeting . . . We enjoy some member's hospitality . . . Our Club is now fast growing . . . Boasts nineteen members strong . . . So you see we are doing fine . . . With new members right along . . . We think our club about the best . . . Proud we are of its progress too . . . For the leadership of our president . . . Hats off! We say to you . . . Under her capable guidance . . . Our club has ever progressed . . . With her knowledge of the violet . . . We have all been greatly blessed . . . So if you have a sick Saintpaulia . . . That needs some help or fixin' . . . Call on our good president . . . The gracious Mrs. (Doctor) Dixon . . . As the year's activity closes . . . May we say a sincere prayer . . . That our wonderful Society . . . Be even better -- the coming year ! ! !

THE END

STIM-U-PLANT

VIOLET KIT



Green beginners and green-thumbed experts alike will find the Stim-U-Plant Complete African Violet Kit a real help in growing strong, beautiful African violet plants.

Everything needed to grow African violets (except the plants themselves) is included in this kit. There is a generous amount of a special organic potting soil scientifically prepared for this particular plant, a large bag of rooting medium for starting slips, a package of Stim-U-Plant African Violet Food to produce healthier, more beautiful plants with large, colorful blooms, and a box of Sel-Kaps, the most effective insecticide available for eliminating parasites from African violets. Also included in the kit is a booklet explaining how to grow African violets.

Packed in a colorful carton which makes an excellent counter display, the Stim-U-Plant African Violet Kit sells on sight. Dealers all over the country are making sales records with the Stim-U-Plant Kit, which is backed by nationwide advertising to amateur and professional African violet growers. For complete details on how you can cash in on this sensational new item, write to Stim-U-Plant Laboratories Co., Columbus 16, Ohio.

THE END

PEAT MOSS CULTURE

Laura Morris, St. Michaels, Md.

I have tried many soil formulas, and have had my share of losing lovely plants. Of course I still lose a few from carelessness, for I now have many plants to care for. But I have had better success after a friend of mine, Mrs. Spengler, of Orlando, Florida, introduced this new method of soil mixing to me.

I use equal parts of good grade peat moss, sand and vermiculite, and add one-fourth bone meal. I keep the plants fed, watered and sprayed and feel well-rewarded when I see the little faces peeping up at me. I have had little set-back with plants received through the mail.

This soil mixture saves me from watering my plants so much. I water every three to five days, depending on the weather. They stand up under

the hot weather much better. I have had far less buds drop this year, in spite of temperatures in the 90's.

My violets are raised in ceramics, clay, plastic and wick-fed pots, with a few even in coffee cans. They all live on my window sills, except for one table full of plants, where I have an ordinary 100 watt bulb with aluminum foil reflector. Naturally, I have hopes of getting fluorescent lights soon.

Of my five to six hundred pots of African violets, the ones growing and blooming best are in my peat moss formula. I find that with this soil mixture, a variety of plants produce better results, rather than just sticking to one kind.

THE END



Price List

15 watt size	20 watt size
Height 51"	Height 51"
Width 23"	Width 31"
Base 18"	Base 18"

Black plant stand (satin finish)	\$24.75	\$28.75
White plant stand (satin finish)	24.75	28.75
Unfinished -- knotty pine (ready to assemble)	21.75	23.75
Fluorescent fixture each -- installed (less tubes)	4.60	4.85
Mirror and backing	8.50	11.50

Above prices f.o.b. Wilson, New York

(35 miles north of Buffalo)

DO YOU “SHOW WHILE YOU GROW?”

Your prize plants may be shown while they are grown! This furniture piece will accent your room with African Violets, Dwarf Roses, Gloxinias or other varieties that thrive under artificial light. The advantages of this stand are many. It is obtainable with, or without, the rear mirror. Fluorescent or incandescent lights may be installed under the shelves and away from view. Have one or two fixtures to meet your candle power needs. Choose a satin black finish (smaller size illustrated) to bring out the best color in your plants -- A satin white to lighten your living room. Perhaps you desire to finish your own piece -- for you the unassembled model is offered at a saving.

CRAFT HOUSE

Wilson, N. Y.

Hints On Culture Of My African Violets

Iva Moore, Fort Dodge, Iowa

First I have a sort of "motto" that I have had since I started to raise African violets, which is, "I am going to strive for perfection." Of course, I know I can NOT attain perfection but it does mean I am always trying to improve my method of culture. So I am growing in all kinds of containers and different rooting mediums and experimenting. But here are some hints on this hobby that I like very much and which have proven valuable time and time again.

Soil is very important and I have tried many soil mixtures, but like the one I'm using now the best. It was given to me by a good friend. Use: three parts wood dirt, two parts Terralite or peat and one of sand. To one gallon of this mixture I add five tablespoons of bone meal, five tablespoons sheep manure and one cup of fine charcoal. Charcoal keeps the soil sweet. I also add two tablespoons of Lindane powder that I get from Neil Miller as I think the fumes from it keep away those little black flies and other bugs. I do not bake my soil but put a Soilfume capsule in a bushel of the soil and sand and let it stand for a week and air, then it is ready for use. I use this soil formula for small plants too as it doesn't burn. But with all kinds of soil and weather conditions, everyone has to experiment to a certain extent. But use a very porous soil.

I water with lukewarm water from the top whenever the soil feels dry to my touch. I keep it quite moist but do not keep it saturated all the time. Let the soil dry out once in awhile.

Your east and north windows are the best, but I grow in all windows using more caution in the south and west. I give all the light I possibly can without hurting my plants. I like the early morning sun. The fluorescent lights are wonderful. With them we don't have to worry about too much sun or water on the leaves.

I have kept my room temperature at about sixty-six degrees in the violet house and they have bloomed all winter. I have been very careful to keep it even and have a small room on the end of my violet house with which I regulate my ventilation without drafts. Humidity is most important. Have sand and Zonolite in trays under plants and keep it damp, also a bucket of water on the stove. In my home I have water sitting everywhere to increase the humidity.

I am propagating from seed, division of old plants and leaf cuttings. I let divisions and leaves lay about an hour to heal over and then put them in Terralite and place them on the top shelf where it is extra warm and they start much

quicker. If they get limp they are covered with a glass. This is also good for varieties that are hard to start. I find all heavy leaf varieties like this treatment. I use plain plastic refrigerator crispers with holes bored in the lid for ventilation for hard to start leaves and plants, also baby seedlings. After leaves have a good start they are planted in regular potting soil and put under the lights and are not divided until the plants are at least an inch high.

I follow a program of cleanliness by using clean pots and spray once a month with N.N.O.R. according to directions or one teaspoon of Black Leaf Forty to a quart of lukewarm water and add a little soap, always being careful to keep plants out of the sun until dry. The paint sprayer from my hand sweeper attachments is used for spraying.

THE END

exclusive introduction . . .

ALBINO GIRLS

These exotic and unusual plants will be available at our Rooms after May 1. However, only leaf cuttings will be shipped. Send stamp for catalog of these and other exciting new varieties.

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 Holley St.,

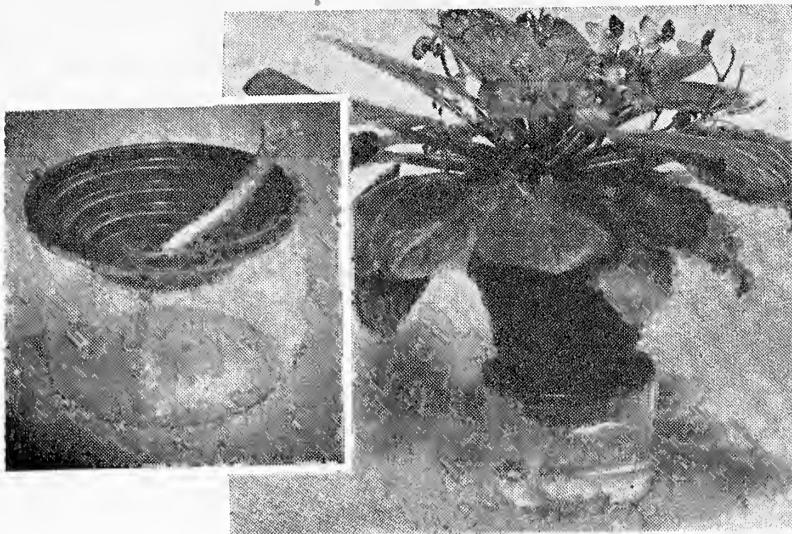
Brockport, N. Y.

(Closed Wednesdays)

SPOONIT FLOWER FOOD

Send postal card for a wee sample and information about my trial offer. (I'll also send you a sample copy of my Midget Garden Magazine — "CABBAGES AND THINGS.")

PLANTSMITH
Box 818 Palo Alto, California



Insure Scientific Watering of Your **African Violets and Gloxinias**

After considerable research, we have designed this new PLANTWICK to insure proper watering of your plants, where it counts -- right at the roots.

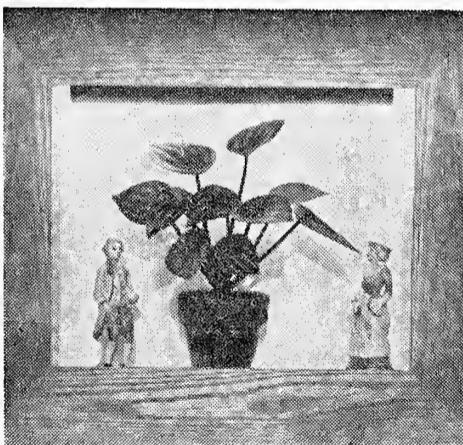
No repotting necessary. Just follow the simple instructions and the PLANTWICK goes to work for you in a matter of seconds, insuring proper automatic watering, for from 5 to 20 days without attention.

The clever step-down design of the top makes one size fit all pots snugly (2", 3", 4" or 5"), making a tip-resisting base.

Easy adjustment of the Fibre glass, rot proof, capillary wick delivers the proper water for a given size pot.

Just send us \$2.00 for 3 of these PLANTWICKS. They will come to you postage paid by return mail. If not completely satisfied, return to us in ten days for your money back.

Be Original—
Grow Blooming
Flower Pictures
Right on Your
Wall



You can watch your flowers grow to full bloom in this new, wall picture shadow box, that has its own "Artificial Sunshine." Beautifully designed to compliment any wall. Ideal for dark walls. Does not need sunlight. 13" x 11". Only \$7.50 postpaid -- on C.O.D. you pay all charges. 10 day money back guarantee.

SEDER-HOPKINS MFG. CORP.

323 Berry St.

Brooklyn 11, N. Y.

SUGGESTIONS

Aleta Mae Stuart, Los Angeles, Calif.

I do not use Rootone on "soft" cuttings or dormant bulbs -- it seems to eat out the inside of the stems of the leaves.

I have had good luck with Transplantone, by using a weak solution and pouring it on vermiculite (after leaves are planted) about an inch or so from the stem after previously watering leaves in). The roots were fast and fine.

The age of leaves seems not the reason for rot from Rootone. I prefer a covered casserole (glass), with about three-fourths mixture of vermiculite, perlite and peat. The roots flatten on the bottom and give you a nice spread.

AN INTERESTING METHOD OF WICK WATERING

I recently attended a local club meeting and discovered a member had found an interesting method of wick-watering her plants. She used stockings, placed inside the pot. The bottom of the stocking was drawn through the hole in the bottom, while the top part was used to line the pot, which was then, of course, filled with dirt. Thus, the whole pot received the benefit of wick-watering, instead of just the bottom of the pot. I thought it was some idea!

THE END

The above note of interest was sent in by Aleta May Stuart, of Los Angeles, California. Her Friend with the unusual method of watering has remained unidentified, but we hope she will recognize her method. — Editor

GLOXINIAS and **AFRICAN VIOLETS**

belong to the same family!

Hybrid Gloxinia Seed — Rainbow Assortment

200 Seed Packet \$1.00

Selected from our finest hybrids

4 large tubers -- all different postpaid \$3.00

CATALOG ON REQUEST

We also grow over 100 varieties of

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Catalog now ready

Visitors Welcome

ALBERT H. BUELL
GLOXINIA SPECIALIST
DEPT. V EASTFORD, CONN.

Romancing with Violets

Mary McClure, Paradise, Cal.

(Series No. 112-C-P-2, Copyright 1953 by author)

Once upon a time a Western Girl met a renowned P ----- P -----, this B ----- E ----- B ----- was the season's prettiest D ----- A dancing party was given by her aunt C ----- whose home was the most pretentious on S ----- L -----. This young lady's name was H ----- W -----.

P ----- P -----, as he was called by friends, was an A ----- in the navy. His real name was J ----- F ----- They fell in love, as you by now have suspected. Then along came the day when these two L ----- B ----- announced their engagement.

The bridesmaids were chosen, twin sisters, by name, J ----- and J -----, then lovely C ----- and J -----, and then our S ----- A ----- W ----- Each one was most G ----- in dresses of A ----- satin, carrying bouquets of S ----- violets. The bride wore a S ----- W ----- gown, and carried a brides bouquet of S ----- violets. The bride standing, her hand in his, eyes shining bright as a C ----- S ---, she whispered "I do."

Of course this story ends as all C ----- stories do, "they lived happily ever after."

(See page 54 for correct answers.)

HOBBY COTTAGE

Specialize in Hybridizing

HAWAIIAN SERIES

Doubles and Semi

HAWAIIAN MOON

Sparkling Lav.

HAWAIIAN STAR

Sky Blue — Full Double

HAWAIIAN SKIES

HAWAIIAN SUNSET

HAWAIIAN BELL

ORCHID BICOLORS

Dark and Light

Dark Foliage

Single

HAWAIIAN BEAUTY

Wine Red

Ruffled Fl. and Foliage

DOUBLE

CREAM DELIGHT

TRUE CREAM COLOR

LIGHT YELLOW CAST

GIRL FOLIAGE

THIS PLANT MAY BE SEEN AT
MY HOME

WHEN IN OMAHA

You are cordially invited to see my display of fine new Hybrids. It will be worth your time. Come and compare them with others.

ALWAYS A FRIENDLY WELCOME

LELA REICHERT

3114 Charles St. Ph. WEbster 2286
OMAHA 2, NEBRASKA

— EASY TO FIND —

Go west on Dodge to 30th St., north 15 blocks to Charles, West 1½ blocks.

MANY OTHERS — WRITE FOR LIST

SHIP PLANTS and LEAVES

CONGO KING

Dk. Purple Fl. 2" Across

PINK VIVACIOUS

Deep Pink Flowers

Dark Foliage

BLUE OAK

Huge Flower

Oak Shape Girl Foliage

BLACK DELIGHT

Big Black Purple

Fringed Flowers

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period September 2, 1953 to December 14, 1953.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Baltic Sea 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Bicolor and Snow White. Large symmetrical plant. Dark green pointed leaves. Flowers light mauve with darker eye."

Blue Sail 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Large, flat, symmetrical plant. Metallic green, round toothed leaves. Medium blue flowers, usually rounded petals; very free flowering.

Jo'es Cover Girl 11-30-53

Mrs. A. C. Hasenyager
Box 213
Tecumseh, Nebraska

"The blooms are fully double -- large and purplish red, usually ten to a stem sometimes more. Has never been out of bloom. It's quite a large plant with large "girl" leaves, yet stays compact and never sprawls into an ugly shape plant. Propagates readily and grows rapidly.

Morning Girl 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Blue Girl and Red Head. Upright compact plant. Spring green, ruffled "girl" type leaves. Purple-red blossoms."

Boyce Edens 10-10-53

Mrs. Quixie Nichols
246 Madison Boulevard
Madison, Tennessee

Pearl Drop 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Upright plant, Spring green leaves. Blossoms white with pink shade. Tip of the upper petals light pink.

Pink Frost 9-23-53

H. E. Niemann
2321 Wilkes Avenue
Davenport, Iowa

Queen Biruta 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Gray Blue and Lady Geneva: Upright plant. Spring green, pointed leaves. Blossoms are light lilac, broad white edged, upper petals lighter."

Roehrs Lilac 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Large flat plant. Muted green; long, spooned leaves. Sky mauve flowers."

Roehrs Rose 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Flat compact plant. Coppery green, round leaves, purple underneath. Round flowers of clear rose with darker eye."

Sprink Sky 9-29-53

Julius Roehrs Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

"Seedling: Blue Eyes and Gray Blue. Large compact plant. Coppery green leaves. Light blue free flowering."

PART II

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period.

Agawam
Chicapee
Mohawk
Mohican
Pink Girl's Daughter

Pinwheel
Purple Trapunto
Smoky
Starless Night
Yankee Scott

THE END

ROMANCING WITH VIOLETS

ANSWERS

Key -- order of use

Western Girl
Pacific Prince
Blue Eyed Beauty
Debutante
Carolyn
Sunset Lane
Helen Wilson
Pacific Prince
Admiral
Jack Frost
Love Birds
Jolian
Judy
Christina
Jessie
Sweetheart
Alma Wright
Gorgeous
Amethyst
Silhouette
Snow White
Silverlining
Christmas Star
Cinderella

THE END

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

for 1954

Will be mailed out in April

The African Violet . . .

"MY BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS"

Katherine Schultz, Clinton, Ohio

WHEN YOU ARE LONELY AND, OH, SO
BLUE,
WHEN SORROW HAS ENTERED YOUR
HEART,
THEN TURN TO THE LOVELY VIOLET
TO GET A GLAD NEW START.

THEY ARE THE BLUEBIRDS OF
HAPPINESS,
ON YOUR WINDOWSILL, THEY ARE A
PART
OF THE NEW LIFE YOU HAVE JUST
STARTED
TO TAKE SORROW OUT OF YOUR HEART.

Of all the lovely colors, the lovely foliage, which do I love most? That would be hard to say! The lovely blues, the reds, how pretty all. Geneva is one of my favorites. My pinks, what a sight. And whites! What is more beautiful than a full-blooming "Innocence." Bi-Colors galore! No wonder I love them.

Two years ago, I had lost interest in everything. Tragedy had come into my life, and it seemed then there was nothing left to live for. But then the lovely African violet entered my home and my heart to give me a new start in life. I had about eight plants given to me by friends, but I must honestly say that at first I didn't pay much attention to them. Oh, I watered and picked them and turned them, but then left them alone until the next watering.

In one of my lowest ebbs, I visited a violet shop, which I had passed by every day, but never bothered to stop. This particular day the windows of the shop were full of violets, and they just seemed to beckon me. It was there I recognized the true beauty of the violet. I bought a few more plants and listened to the lady who owned the shop. Her advice helped me so much -- and I left with a gift of two more young plants. She had advised me about the soil and food. She even told me how to start the leaves.

Then I began to "go into it" earnestly. My family, happy with my new-found interest, added a few more to my collection. Then they began to multiply over night, it seemed, and I began giving them away -- two to everyone who brought pleasure to someone else. I now have two hundred plants of about one hundred varieties, and I love them everyone, large and small, from seeds or leaves to seedlings and plants.

My family, far from losing interest in my new hobby, continues to help and encourage me.

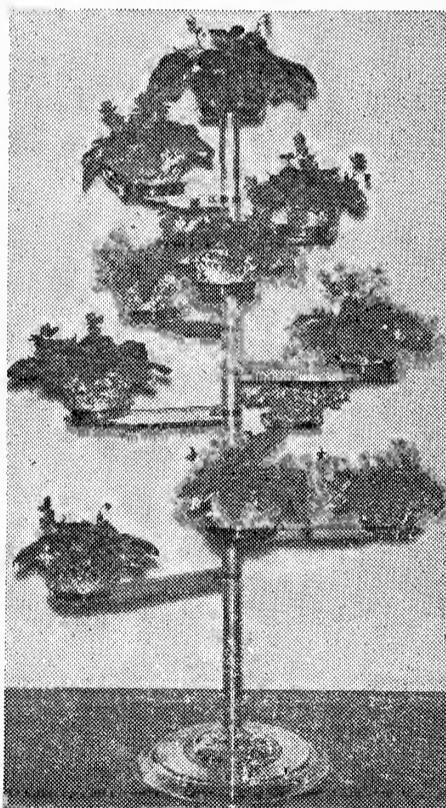
My husband put up triple shelves in my windows, and every table and ledge is graced by their beauty. We are planning a table of fluorescent light now, and next year, I hope my dream of a little greenhouse will come true.

My wonderful new hobby has indeed given me a new lease on life. It holds my interest from morning till night, and the beauty of these lovely plants has more than repaid me for my time and effort. Once again I have an interest, and a feeling of contentment, which, two years ago, I never hoped to have again.

THE END

The Most Beautiful

FLOWER TREES Ever Made -- for your cherished AFRICAN VIOLETS



All Shining
Rustproof
SPUN
ALUMINUM

Each tray rotates
freely about center for even sun-
ning of plants.

This tree holds up
to 18 four-inch
flower pots, yet
requires only 20-
inch diameter
floor space.

36" high - \$19.50
42" high - 21.00
48" high - 22.50

All trees shipped
assembled

EXPRESS
PREPAID

Write for circular on other models and sizes
AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS
With treated edges



10-3" pots	\$1.65
8-4" pots	\$1.80
6-5" pots	\$2.15

Sent postpaid and guaranteed
25¢ set additional west of Rockies

OZARK SPUNALUM CO.

BOX 59-AN

JACKSON, MISSOURI

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS



Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman

is:

GRACE ROWE
749 Columbia Street
Aurora, Illinois

AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GADSDEN
Mrs. Kathleen E. Mayben, Pres.
949 Walnut St.
Gadsden, Ala.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SONOMA COUNTY
Mrs. Geo. W. King, Jr., Pres.
1662 Patricia Pl.
Santa Rosa, Calif.

ROCK ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB No. 1
Mrs. George Benner, Pres.
617 39th St.
Rock Island, Ill.

Greetings from your new Affiliated Chapter Chairman.

I realize much time and effort has been given to set up and keep in order the records of our Affiliated Chapters. I would like to review a few of the most important facts which keep the machinery running in an efficient manner.

The rules of membership are simple and have been listed in many of our Magazines but I feel they should be brought to your attention again.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION:

1. At least twenty-five per cent of each Chapter's local members must also be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2. All officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.
3. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-laws, and all amendments thereto to the Affiliated Chapter Chairman of African Violet Society of America, Inc.
4. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership including a list of the names and addresses of its officers to the Affiliated Chapter Chairman of African Violet Society of America, Inc. Such list to designate those local members who are also members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. These lists to be submitted once each

year immediately after the election of new officers by Affiliated Chapter.

5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America, Inc. an annual Membership Fee of \$2.50.

WHY SHOULD WE AFFILIATE?

BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION ARE:

1. The Club is entitled to regular membership privileges -- one voting delegate at our Annual Meeting.
2. One year's subscription of the Society's Magazine and the Members' Handbook will be mailed to the Affiliated Club.
3. The Club's officers will be listed in our Members' Handbook.
4. Awards for the Club's African Violet Shows will be available when specifications made by the Award Committee are complied with.

Note: See paragraph 7 on page 89 of Members' Handbook. You will write to **Affiliated Chairman** instead of Corresponding Secretary regarding your Gold and Purple ribbon awards. (This change is to speed up time of delivery).

5. Colored transparencies for programs are available. Local Club to pay postage.
6. Books from our library are available. Local Club to pay postage.

NEW BENEFITS ADDED ARE:

7. Pamphlets on culture of African violets are available.
8. Entry tags for use in shows are available.

All locals clubs through Affiliation with African Violet Society of America, Inc., are bringing local interests and the work of the National Society into a closer relationship.

A goal of two hundred and fifty Affiliated Chapters was set for the end of 1953. There are two hundred and four as of January 1, 1954.

Secure proper forms from me (if you don't have same) for either **new or renewal** Affiliation membership. Fill it out and send with your Constitution and By-laws, membership and officers list and check (\$2.50) for your club membership to me.

In connection with any club correspondence you may have with me please be sure to mention your Club name and town.

I trust you will read all the foregoing very carefully. For any further information you may need, please feel free to write me. I'm ready and willing to serve you.

Sincerely,
GRACE ROWE
749 Columbia St.
Aurora, Ill.

A. A. V. S. TALLEY

Immediately after your African Violet Spring, Summer or Fall SHOW will you kindly send direct to me the names of the varieties winning the following awards:

"BEST IN SHOW"

NATIONAL GOLD Award -- three registered named varieties

NATIONAL PURPLE Award -- three registered named varieties

Your information will enable me to make a 1954 AMERICAN AFRICAN VIOLET SELECTIONS (A.A.V.S.) TALLEY which all National club members will find interesting and informative. Thanks ever so much for your cooperation.

Miss Daisy Jones
1327 Sterick Building
Memphis 3, Tenn.

LIBRARY NOTICE

To insure a prompt reply on all requests please note the librarians new address.

The following is a list of 35 mm color slide programs available to Affiliated Chapters:

Fisher's Greenhouses
Tinari's Greenhouses
Carter's Greenhouses
Wilson's Greenhouses (Fantastic Gardens)
The Chicago Convention, 1952
Saintpaulias in Review (new)
Insects, Diseases and Propagation (new)
Let's Visit Alma Wright (new)
Nashville Convention 1953 (new)
I Personalities and Awards
II Shows and Exhibits

Tape recordings no longer available.

Please note that these programs are available only to Affiliated Chapters. All library rules must be closely followed, especially returning programs by registered mail, or loss of borrowing privileges by the Chapter will ensue. The penalty is automatic.

Mrs. R. G. Heinsohn
4720 Calumet Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee

QUALIFIED JUDGES

Ruth G. Carey, Chairman

JUDGES

Judging School Certificates issued at Greenville, South Carolina, October 29, 1953. Expire October 29, 1956.

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Mrs. Frank E. Anderson, 15 McMakin Dr.
Sans Souci, Greenville
Mrs. Ed. Copeland, 154 Green Acre Rd.
Greenville
Mrs. Charles Lea, Rt. 5, Spartanburg
Mrs. Homer Derrick, 805 Crescent Ave.
Greenville

Judging School Certificates issued at Aurora, Illinois, November 18, 1953. Expire November 18, 1956.

Mrs. Ernest Benson, 930 W. Springs St., Elgin
Mrs. Merrill Boone, 682 May St., Elgin
Mrs. Reed Burch, Rt. 1, Lockport
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Mrs. William Drake, 9th St., Lockport
Mrs. Stanley McBride, 374 Commonwealth Ave.
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Mrs. J. A. Cedarvall, 6208 Park Ridge Rd.
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Mrs. Allen Rice, 1100 Fairview Ave., Rockford
Mrs. Samuel Rowe, 749 Columbia St., Aurora
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AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves and all sizes of plants to grow on and also in bloom. Specializing in husky 2 1/4 inch plants of all publicized new and nearly new varieties; grown for normal house conditions with normal light and atmosphere.

INQUIRIES AND VISITORS INVITED

Plants shipped. Location very accessible

Just south of Hwy. No. 50 and 4 miles east of Hwy. No. 41. Also known as The Peony Gardens.

NORA E. MANEGOLD

7904 Cooper Rd.

Kenosha, Wisconsin

ST. LOUIS TOUR

Grace B. Wayman, St. Louis, Mo.

Early on an afternoon in "April in St. Louis" you will board your special bus (chartered just for you) and if you hurry you can find seats on the first of several leaving headquarters hotel, the "Chase," at 1:15 p.m., April 22, 1954, bound for the internationally famous Shaws Garden.

Your tour will take you through Forest Park, passing the site of our famous Municipal Opera, the Zoo, the Jewel Box, Jefferson Memorial, Art Museum and the campus of Washington University.

Arriving at the Missouri Botanical Gardens (Shaws Garden) you will have choice of a guided tour of the Garden giving you the highlights of each exhibit, or you may wish to spend more time admiring the Rose Garden, which should be a thing of beauty in late April, or perhaps the formal arrangement of flower beds in precise geometrical pattern of the Italian Gardens will intrigue you. This brilliant garden is centered about a statue of Juno, imported from Italy -- the original being in the National Museum at Naples.

You may wish to spend more time in the Desert House where can be seen some of the most bizarre and grotesque forms of the plant world; such as Century plants which provided the Aztecs with food, drink, clothing and writing materials. Others will prefer to use their spare time visiting the Palm House, displaying Date palms, Sugar palms, Oil palms (which supplies the oil used in the manufacture of soap) and the Chinese Fan Palm.

There are many other houses to choose from, such as Linnean House, Citrus House, Aroid House, Bromeliad House, Banana and Coffee Plantation, South African House, Fern House; however your reporter would not miss visiting Plant Curiosities House and recommends it to you. In this house you will find a veritable garden of freaks and oddities from all over the globe. For instance -- the Parachute flower; the Artillery Plant which shoots its seeds; the Climbing Onion; the Rat Tail Plant; the Dumb Cane (if one bites the leaves the tongue swells so that speech is impossible); the Babes in the Cradle and the Tropical Pitcher Plants (the tips of their long leaves carry cunningly designed traps for unwary insects).

At this point in your tour you will, no doubt, feel that your visit to Shaws Garden has been a treat. However there is another treat in store for you in the form of an invitation from the African Violet Society of St. Louis County to be their guest for tea served in the Museum Building.

We are confident you will enjoy the tour and hope you will enjoy our tea as much as we will enjoy having you and serving you. Finally -- when it is time for you to board your "Specials" for the return trip, we like to think you will feel a tinge of regret when you hear the old familiar ALL ABOARD! !

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Welcome to an African Violet Show every day at our greenhouses. Over 100 varieties for your selection. Thousands in bloom, including choice plants of many of the newer introductions.

2" pots, in bud and bloom, from 75¢ to \$1.50
3" pots, in good bloom, from \$1.00 to \$2.50

Ready for spring sales — EL CAPITAN and CALUMET RED. Also our own reselection of Snow Prince, a giant-flowering plant.

Our plants are all top quality, clean and in vigorous growing condition. We do no retail shipping, but visitors are welcome. Open every day, including Sundays, except from June to October, when we are closed on Sundays.

ALL PLANTS STATE INSPECTED

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSES

607 HOFFMAN STREET, HAMMOND, INDIANA

Three blocks west of U.S. 41 and 1 block south of Ind. 312

FINE FABRICS TO FEATURE DESIGNS OF AUTHENTIC AFRICAN VIOLETS

A growing interest of note in the fashion world today is the increasing enthusiasm for flower designs on handkerchiefs, guest towels, luncheon sets, scarfs, and many other articles. Research has shown that to date there have been no African violet designs printed on such articles.

Members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., have expressed interest in obtaining authentic designs for gifts, which has led to the proposed plan whereby Patricia Gray Enterprises will be able to make these products available to members of the Society at wholesale prices, in quantity, prior to marketing for general public.

To obtain authentic designs from outstanding specimens, Jean Chapman, noted New York Textile designer, will be on hand at the forthcoming African Violet Society Convention to be held in St. Louis next April, to make her designs from prize winning plants entered for competition at that time -- with the owner's consent of course! Owners of prize winning plants will be given credit in all advertising of the manufactured products, each promotion will include biography of grower, plant, and Society. Thus enabling both Society and grower to benefit. It is anticipated that this plan of procedure for promotion of both products and plants will lead to a growing interest with the general public, reaching many people who here-to-fore have been uninformed on this interesting hobby. This will increase the sale of plants, membership in the Society and knowledge of growers, as well as advancing the sale of the attractive products. What could be a lovelier gift than a luncheon set presented with a live plant as a centerpiece to match the design! Or a set of handkerchiefs accompanied by a plant to start a new collector.

Patricia Gray Enterprises, featuring exclusive designs by Jean Chapman, is a new company formed by two progressive women, each of whom is a specialist in her line. Jean Chapman is well known for her outstanding flower designs on all

types of fabric. When she first started her career in designing, Miss Chapman confined her work to textiles for the dress industry. With Studios in New York City and Paris, her name became synonymous with distinctive design. For the past five years she has created original authentic flower designs for some of the largest manufacturers of handkerchiefs in the country. Today, she is considered the leading designer of flowers in her field. Her charming Studio in Sherman, Connecticut provides the quiet picturesque atmosphere conducive to the delicate tastes of a talented artist. It is her desire to work closely with the African Violet Society in bringing into being authentic, true to life designs of the outstanding beauty of the African violet of which members of your Society may well be proud. Patricia Gray has an accomplishment of background in advertising, sales and promotion.

The opening offer of this African violet promotion will be confined to hand screened prints on fine hand rolled handkerchief linen. To enable members of the Society to take advantage of the savings by ordering in quantity through their Chapters, the initial orders may be placed at the Convention. A saving of about \$2.00 per dozen may thus be realized. Therefore, whether you wish to order only one handkerchief or six, by placing your order with your Chapter, you will be taking advantage of this saving.

The time element will, naturally, have to be taken into consideration in the production of these authentic patterns. After the winners are selected and sketched and the proper approval of the plant's owner is obtained the completed designs will be approved by the executive committee of the African Violet Society if they so desire, before designs are put into work. This will mean that the actual products will not be completed until the fall of 1954. However, to ascertain your interest and desire to have these articles, we must count on your response by orders placed at the Convention.

THE END

VISIT VIOLET HOBBY HOUSE

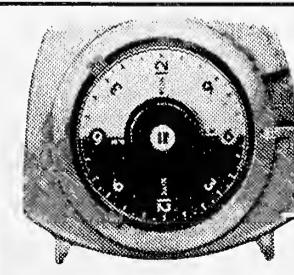
Hundreds of plants growing vigorously in completely balanced Organic Mineral mixture containing no soil.

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TIME-ALL automatic timer for fluorescent lights and many home uses. Has many exclusive features. Beautiful plastic case. \$11.95 ppd. or ask for full description.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

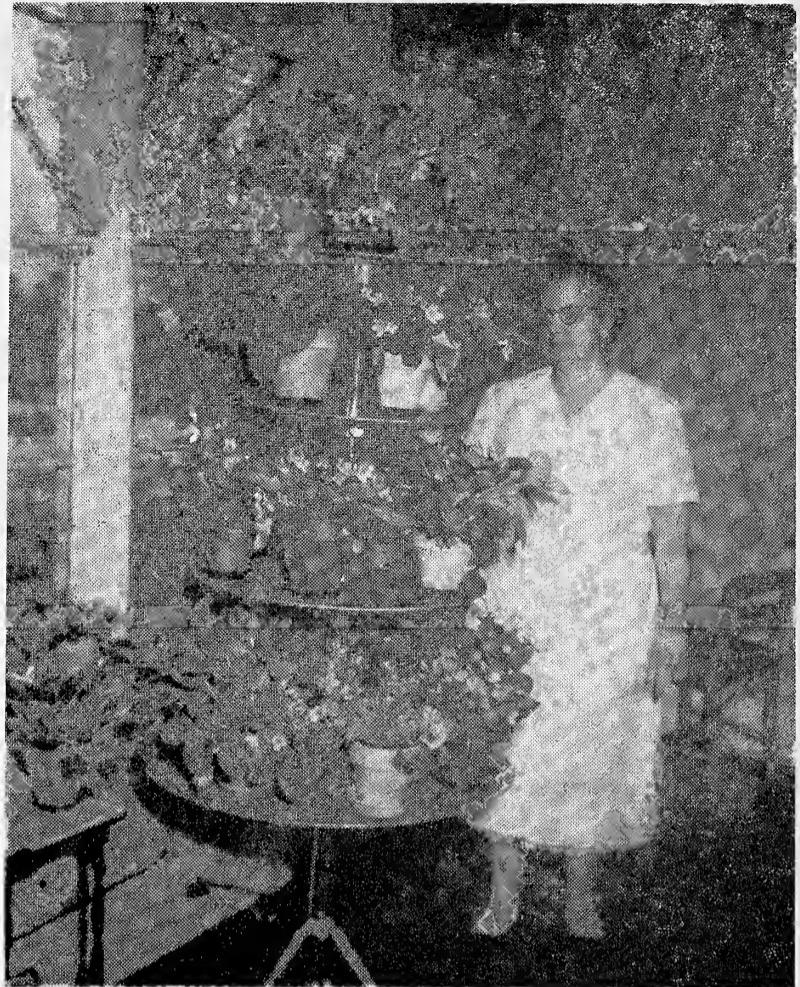
1126 Arthur St., Wausau, Wis.

Beauty In Her Business

Miss Pauline Parker, 203 Spring Street, Holly Springs, Mississippi, finds the growing of African violets a most delightful hobby, and she is becoming very successful in rooting and growing unusually beautiful plants.

Miss Parker operates a beauty shop in her home. Her customers take great interest in the violets, some of them having caught the "fever" from watching her splendid progress as a grower. It is a joy to see her shop, with the large display stand filled with as beautiful a collection of violets as one could dream of, and other equally lovely plants on tables around the room.

Miss Parker makes her home with two of her very dear friends, Mrs. Bessie Jackson, an elderly widow, and Miss Mary Hill, a semi-invalid, both of whom love the violets and derive much pleasure from watching and living with them. Recently they counted nineteen varieties, including Lady Geneva, Silver Pink, Red Head, Star Sapphire, My Wave (especially named for a beauty shop,



Miss Pauline Parker of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

it seems), Blue Champion, Bouquet Pink, and others -- all the color range from pure white to deep blue and purple shades, with several variegated.

"Growing African violets gives me more pleasure than any other hobby I have tried," writes Miss Parker, "And I find it a source of real inspiration and happiness."

THE END

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Wintergreen, Pink Wonder, White Wonder, Madonna, Sunglow, Hildegarde, Pandora, Jubilee, Cavalier, Lorelei, \$2.00 each. Twelve started plants of standard varieties, all different, labeled \$4.50 ppd. Crossandra plants \$1.00 ea. Seeds 3 -- 25¢ 15 -- \$1.00 and stamped envelope. Achimenes -- White, Blue, Red, Lavender, Purple, Pink, Cerise -- \$1.10 doz. ppd. Fancy leaf Caladiums -- 12 named varieties, Jumbo bulbs 3 -- \$2.25 ppd. Ferns -- Birds nest, Maidenhair, Lace, Rabbit's foot -- 75¢ each. Holly, Whitmani, Plomosus, Sprengeri, assorted table ferns, Tolmia, 50¢ each -- \$5.00 doz. Hoya Exotica, Hoya Variegata, 3 -- \$2.00. Please include 50¢ for postage on orders under \$5.00 except where specified.

MRS. N. B. WILSON

943 Greenwood Ave., N. E. Atlanta, Ga.

MORE FUN IN GIVING

From the Grand Rapids Press

Raising African violets -- she has more than one thousand plants -- is only a fraction of the enjoyment Mrs. Arthur C. Southick of 115 Montebello St., S.E., derives from her hobby.

Most of the fun comes from giving them away.

The current batch of plants now in bloom in the Southick basement is being groomed by Mrs. Southick for delivery to several local institutions as a gift . . . They'll grace the bedside tables of patients at Sunshine Sanatorium, brighten the rooms of residents at the Michigan Veterans facility and furnish spots of bright beauty at Evangeline Home, Villa Maria and St. John's Home.

"That's my excuse for raising violets," Mrs. Southick explains. "They give so much pleasure to so many."

Besides her gifts to institutions, Mrs. Southick has presented countless violets to friends laid up in the hospital in the two years she has been raising the colorful blooms. In fact, it was the violet plants she received in her own illness that started her on her hobby.

"I had so many of them," she says, "it seemed a shame not to share them with others. I started new plants from leaves and before I knew it I had a full-grown hobby."

It wasn't long, of course, before the collection overflowed living room and kitchen windowsills and space had to be provided for the ever-increasing number of plants. They're housed now on long growing tables in the basement where the Southicks have simulated near-ideal cultivating conditions.

Temperature and humidity are maintained near sixty degrees at all times, Mrs. Southick explains. And her husband, a General Motors employee, installed the fluorescent lighting which provides twenty-four-hour sunshine for the plants.

Mr. Southick, his wife points out, takes more interest in the hobby than he likes to admit. He gets the soil -- ten bushels of oakleaf mold obtained this year from the Wyoming township park department. And he assists Mrs. Southick in sterilizing the soil, mixing it with a coarse sand and transplanting the violets to large pots as they grow.

Her husband is the "violet" correspondent of the family, too. He writes to violet enthusiasts around the country, seeking leaves from varieties they have perfected for his wife's collection.

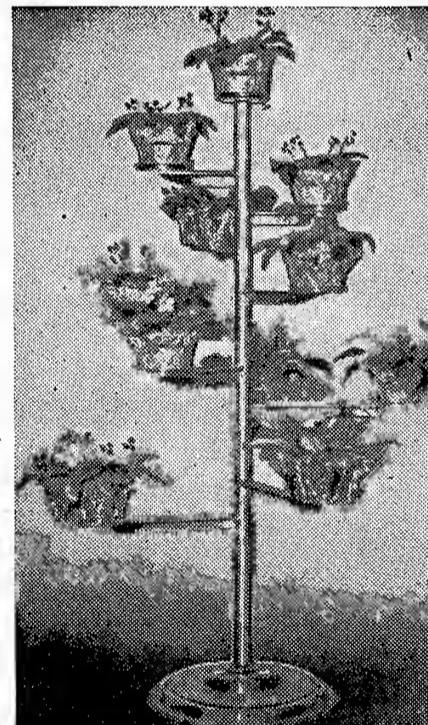
Mrs. Southick hasn't developed any new varieties herself -- she's kept busy just raising those she has. And proof of her "green thumb" is evidenced in the massed beauty and color on the basement growing tables.

There are more than one hundred varieties in the collection at present.

Her "growing" secrets? Mrs. Southick doesn't think she has any except that she "feeds" all the plants a high concentrate fertilizer every three weeks, sprays them as often and is careful to guard against plant lice and mites in her growing room.

THE END

All-Aluminum SWING-AWAY



PLANT STAND For AFRICAN VIOLETS OR OTHER PLANTS

Made entirely of rustproof aluminum. Weight of 48" model only about seven lbs. making it easy to handle. Arms can be swung away individually to any angle for best arrangements in appearance or sunning.

Base and arm trays are of shining spun aluminum -- easily kept like new with a little Glass-Wax or similar polish-wax combination.

Lowest arm is 15 inches above floor.

Now Available in 3 Sizes

36 inches high--holds	7 plants—	14.50
42 inches high--holds	9 plants—	15.80
48 inches high--holds	11 plants—	\$16.95

Plus \$1.00 per Order for Shipping Charges

New SPUN-ALUMINUM Squatty AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

in RED, GOLD or MOSS GREEN	3"—	(3 for \$2.95)
	4"—	(3 for 3.40)

In bright Aluminum finish, 20¢ less per pot

All pots shipped postage prepaid

JACKSON METAL SPINNING COMPANY
DEPT. AV-4, JACKSON, MISSOURI



Calling all **MEN**

Phil Libby, 1437 Wisconsin Ave., Racine Wis.

In the past few months I have received numerous letters from men, telling me that it seems that the hobby of raising African violets is "for women only." Basing this on the fact that in the local clubs the largest majority of members are women, that most of the offices are held by women and that the meetings are keyed to the woman's viewpoint. In most of these letters they ask what they can do about this fact. My first answer is for them to become more active.

My second answer is that I guess we'll have to tell the ladies that this is not their hobby exclusively. In the first place there are almost a thousand men members in the National Society and more joining every day . . . there are thousands that are raising violets that are not members and probably won't be until some of us can show them that they are not only welcome into the hobby, but into local societies and the National Society in particular!

If you fellows know of any men who are raising African violets as a hobby or even commercially, why not invite them to join the National Society at least, and if there is a local society in your area invite them to attend their meetings. The magazine published by the National Society and sent to each member is worth the price of membership alone. In this way we'll not only build up the Society, but maybe in time we'll get on an equal footing with the girls.

Maybe I'm on the inside track of what's going on, since with this column and my traveling around I get to hear the male version on this fine hobby. Believe me fellows, we are going places, more and more men are taking up the hobby, especially those who are raising violets under fluorescent lights. More men are attending the National Conventions, and more men are joining local clubs. More MEN are becoming interested in African violets.

Incidentally, some of the best specimens are being grown by men. Oh, yes, I can hear some of the girls saying . . . "Yeah, but they are not showing their plants at the shows." On that I'll agree, but just wait girls, you'll be seeing them at shows in the future. The men have been sitting back, maybe it is because they were bashful in putting their plants into a show which they may have considered to be a woman's hobby,

because someone said, (and could it have been one of the girls) "that raising African violets is a woman's hobby." It seems to me that in the past it has been the men who have been producing the saleable plants in great numbers and letting the girls BUY them. The men, content to grow them commercially, and let me name some of them -- Ulery, Fischer, Petersen, Granger, Coryell, Tinari and Gary, are all well known names in the violet world. Did I hear someone say . . . "Well of course they are commercial men and in many cases their wives help them. TISH, TISH."

Let's go further into this . . . since many professors and research men such as Bergman (Midwest Research), Jacobus (University of Arkansas), Stinson (University of Connecticut) and a couple of professors at Nashville, whose names escape me for the moment, have taken up the raising of African violets as a hobby, plus oodles of doctors, dentists, ministers and lawyers, throughout the country, men have begun to feel perhaps, this is not a woman's private hobby! ! !

Maybe you'd like to raise them as a hobby, possibly you have a friend that might be interested. Perhaps not on a large scale but a few plants as I've seen in homes from time to time. Not so long ago I visited a friend and a National member in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, who by the way has several thousand plants, and he took me over to a chemist's home, who had six or seven of the finest plants I've ever seen. Another chemistry teacher in the central part of the state, had so many plants that he built himself an aluminum rack of three shelves and fluorescent lights to keep them on. He had so many calls for the racks that he has now put them on the market. Here again is where fluorescent light is playing a large part in the raising of violets. It seems that men go more for lights and raising violets from seed.

Jim Gillette, a church organist in Lake Forest, Illinois, started a number of years ago with violets as a hobby. He constructed a homemade greenhouse out of 2 x 2's and plastic-glass sheeting, using a couple of space heaters for heating. He now does a nice side business with rooted cuttings, and sells full grown plants to neighbors and friends.

Leonard Brewer, a court reporter, who lives in Wyandotte, Michigan, goes in for hybridizing in his spare time, and has come up with some very good seedlings.

John Coryell, former professor at Kansas University, has quit teaching floriculture and has built himself a house, display room, and was building his greenhouse when I was there in October. He will specialize in African violets.

I could go on and on, but space does not permit. Why not write me and tell me of your hobby?

I've several letters from readers asking about heating cables for their violet racks. I suggest they write to Gro-Quick, 10342 Lanark, Detroit 24, Michigan, for details.

I know that the girls will not berate me for this column this month, for they should not be reading it, since it is for the men. However, on my speaking engagements at local societies, they never fail to comment or mention that they read my column. It's O. K. girls.

Some of you men could help out the cause by submitting articles to our editor, Alma Wright. I know that she would appreciate them.

I'm always glad to hear from anyone interested in African violets as a hobby. Would particularly like to hear from those living outside of the United States, telling about their hobby.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

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UNUSUAL FOLIAGE TYPES
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Please send 50¢ on all orders under
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All Aglow	Lorelei
Alma Wright	Lucky Lady
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Edith Cavell	Purple Lace
Edna Fischer	Purple Princess
Fantasy Girl	Queensroyal
Fischer's	Ruffled Queen
Ballerina Series	Ruffled Treasure
Fleur Petite	Silver Lining
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We maintain a collection of more than 400 varieties for leaf and rooted cuttings. Write for price list or send your want list for a quotation on plants, leaves or cuttings.

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GOLDEN & FLOWER
GREENHOUSES & FARMS, INC.

P. O. Box 388

Golden, Colorado

(West of Arvada on Hiway 72)



The Homing Pigeon

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Pigeons:

It's a cold winter night as I write this column, the wind is cold and the first big snow of the season will blanket the ground before morning. These are the days when our violets are appreciated more than at any other season of the year. Try as I will to keep all my violets in the plant house, a few of my favorites somehow seem to sneak in to pretty up my desk and the kitchen windows. I am very inconsistent as my favorites vary from time to time. At this moment, these are the pets in my windows: Shocking Pink, Ohio Bride, Taffeta, Queen Betty, Fleur Petite, Pink Fairy, Edith Cavell, Fluffy Ruffles, Ruffled Queen and Purple Girl. In a few weeks, others will take my fancy and others will grace my windows. So it goes for your Hint Hunter.

Sincerely,
Helen Pochurek

To deepen pinks and reds -- use one teaspoon of commercial lime to a 4 inch pot -- work well into soil.

For glossy, shiny foliage -- use one teaspoon salt-peter to one gallon of water -- use once a week.

To deepen blues and purples -- use one teaspoon aluminum sulphate to one quart of water. Use once a month.

Pearl Spink, California, Pigeon 104

I use two small plastic toothpicks as a prop when putting a leaf to root. They do not rot as wooden picks do and can be used over again.

Lorraine Heller, Carthage, South Dakota



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

Vita-bands are useful for starting leaves. Plant food is incorporated in the bands. Being square, they fit so nicely in a pan or flat. They are a saving in space under fluorescent lights. They are easily removed for transplanting as they are bottomless.

Carrie Mae Marks, Buffalo, New York

Plastic spoons (from your favorite ice cream drive-in) are so useful in propping leaves when first planted. The bowl of the spoon makes a perfect rest for heavy leaves.

Mrs. Benn Shinn, Kimberly, Idaho

I save all small plastic bags and use them over the tops of freshly transplanted small plants. I put a rubber band around the top of pot edge to hold securely. These are left on for a few weeks and make ideal tiny greenhouses. Plants take hold much faster when given the necessary humidity and these bags do provide it.

Leona Wurster, Illinois

Water from fish aquariums is wonderful for violets.

Mrs. R. H. Howell, Hutchinson, Kansas

Pinch out the centers of Grotei when small -- leaving the outer 4 or 5 leaves. This will encourage several plants to grow out from center and will make a nice bushy vine that is much prettier than a single stem plant. Some stems can be left to hang down and others can be trained on a trellis or piece of bark.

Ruth Rhoda, Oley, Pennsylvania

Mildew can be controlled by dusting plants with flowers of sulphur. Use a small dust gun so all parts of the plant are covered.

Lillian Bennet, Manhattan, Kansas

Lady bugs are such friendly little bugs. Don't destroy them if found in the house. They will eat mealy bugs, thrips and aphids, should your plants be host to them.

Rose Jenkins, California

HINTS FROM HELEN

The flat tops of fluorescent lights make ideal seed hatcheries. When lit, they give just enough bottom heat to germinate seed fast. A small portable radio also will give just the right heat for germination. During the night, the pilot light of your stove can be utilized.

Speaking of seeds, please be patient and don't be discouraged if your seeds don't germinate in two weeks. Some of the better hybrid



IVA WOODS

226 High Street

New Wilmington, Penna.

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

Dear Pigeon friends:

As I write this winter has not yet set in with snow and cold. As we read it most of us will be well on our way to spring weather. I hope your winter has been a happy one as you worked with your plants and colorful with many violet blooms. Your sending in your biographical sketch in the first letter is a help in the number of letters which I have to write. At the present time we are short on the number of Pigeons for advanced growers. We welcome all, though, and will fit you in the place which seems best. One of the best ways to help improve your group is to answer promptly and so speed up the return time. Fresh news is much more interesting than stale news, so speed them along.

Sincerely,
Iva Woods



seeds will take much longer before any sign of germination is seen. Don't discard your seed pans for at least six months. Some of the best seedlings are the last to germinate in a package of mixed seed.

One of my garden club friends dresses up her house plants in this way: She takes the correct size of lace paper doily, cuts out the center and dips the lace edge in melted paraffin. She lays them flat until almost hard and then slips them up over the pot and presses them to the top of the pot. This allows the leaves to rest on the doily and will also eliminate petiole rot. It makes a very pretty picture, some may be colored in pastel tints to go with the African violet colors. These are very nice when using plants as gifts.

THE END

Ceramo AFRICAN VIOLET Flower Pots

10 3" pots \$1.65
8 4" pots 1.80
6 5" pots 2.15

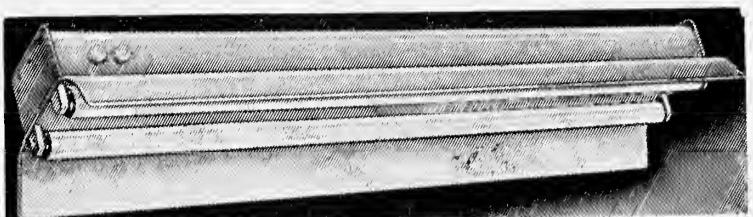
Sent postpaid.
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These famous Squatty Pots, of dark red clay, with their excellent porosity, are used and recommended by Florists. Specially treated edges help prevent sloughing off of leaves. We will replace all broken pots. Order today.

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DAY-LIGHT LAMP GROWS BETTER PLANTS NO SUNLIGHT NEEDED

No limit now to the number of plants you can grow. You'll grow larger more beautiful plants this way, too, because you can control the strength and period of light each day with fluorescent lighting. Plants grow faster, bloom sooner under fluorescent light. The Day-Light Lamp is specially selected for growing African Violets, Gloxinias and other house plants as well as for starting tomatoes and all vegetables and garden plants. Use the fixture with wing-reflector (illustrated above) to hang over tables or growing benches and the fixture illustrated below without wing-reflector in growing racks, bookshelves, etc.

Wing-reflector is attractive design with lustrous gray exterior and baked white enamel reflecting surface which provides more light over larger area from higher point. Fixtures without wing-reflector are finished in Duorwhite enamel and face of fixture is a space-saving reflecting surface. All are 2-light fixtures drilled for attaching to racks or to hang from wire or chain. Fully equipped with pull-chain switch, 6' cord and plug. Ready to plug in and use. For 110-120 volt Alternating Current only.

Day-Light Lamp with Wing-Reflector and 2 20-watt lights (10" wide, 6" high, 24" long) . . . \$13.95 ppd.
Day-Light Lamp with Wing-Reflector and 2 40-watt lights (12" wide, 7" high, 48" long) . . . \$19.95 ppd.
Day-Light Lamp without Wing-Reflector, lights not included (5" wide, 2 3/4" high, 24" long, for 2 20-watt-lights) \$8.75 ppd.
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THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER
P. O. BOX 810, MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS

Two Versions of a Saintpaulia Summer

with Porch Grown Violets

Clem Browning, Flemingsburg, Ky.

Early last June some one hundred of my African violets overflowed onto a back porch, a porch facing northeast and northwest -- walled in on the other two sides. Here they received morning sunshine about 9 a. m. and intense light all day.

Fortunately it happened to be a season with very little wind but 'twas hot and dry in Kentucky as elsewhere -- the highest temperature I observed being 99° and on most July and August days it reached 90° or over.

These plants bloomed profusely all summer -- even very tiny ones. Their foliage, however, was not so pretty as on the plants indoors where temperatures were ten to twenty degrees lower, windows being closed against the heat. The "Girls" particularly tended to twist downward and wrap themselves around the pot. Too, an occasional grasshopper nibbled a green leaf.

I watered freely, usually checking again in the evening as humidity was so low. Once every two weeks they were fed and before going outside all plants were treated with sodium selenate as a preventive against Cyclamen mites which are likely to be acquired out of doors.

These violets were left on the porch until late September when night temperature began dropping to the low 50's, and since coming inside have continued to bloom although not so profusely as during the long, bright summer days.

To me, the logical "rest" time for violets would seem to be during the short, dark days of winter since light is the primary requisite for bloom. This, of course, would not apply to artificially lighted plants which know no season. However we all realize that our darlings love to flout rules, and indeed do not their very inconsistencies but add pique to our interest?

THE END

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Martha Seefeldt, Trenton, Ill.

Last summer, I decided to "make room" in the house for the family, so I hauled some thirty or more African violets out on the enclosed screened porch. They sat there happily, those gloriously hot days when the temperature soared to one hundred and two degrees, and continued to bloom profusely.

There was no shade on the porch, which was on the east side of the house, until the afternoon. At noon I poured a bucket of well water on the walk in front of the porch and on the ground around it, and since it seemed to have some cooling effect on me, I hoped it had for my violets, too.

I watered every other day, pouring the water in the saucers under the plants, and once a week I watered with Hyponex, using the same method. The violets on the porch were as lovely as those more protected ones in the house. Even the sudden change of temperature at night, when the mercury dropped a good bit, did not seem to disturb them at all. There were often dew drops on the leaves of the plants in the morning. However, I praise the night humidity, which, I believe, is one of the main reasons my plants that I had treated like step-children prospered so well. They seemed as happy on the porch as the rest of the family was with the additional space in the house.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

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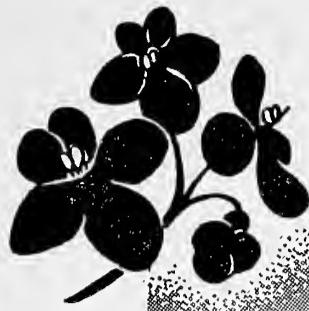
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QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

I am happy to report that this time we have quite a number of answers to our previous problems. Please keep the answers coming.

Q: I grow my violets under fluorescent light and find that I can get them to bloom fairly well providing I keep the temperature about seventy degrees and the humidity about forty per cent. However, I find my blossoms dropping off after a day or two, except the doubles which seem to stay on much longer.

I should like to know about how long blossoms can be expected to remain on their stems? Also, what causes my blossoms to drop off prematurely? I haven't been ventilating the room since the weather has gotten colder. Could this cause the trouble?

Robert Woodward, Philadelphia, Penna.

A: I have never kept track of just how long a blossom will stay on but I would say for over a week in most cases. I think that lack of ventilation could definitely be the reason that your blossoms drop prematurely. Plants on window sills do get some fresh air even though there is a storm window but plants grown under fluorescent lights generally are in the cellar or some dark area away from any chance of fresh air. There should be some means provided so that the plants would have a little fresh air every day.

Q: I am a recent new member of the Society -- enjoying every line of the African Violet Magazine. I need help and hope to get it in the quickest possible time. I have a large collection of violets. Perhaps two hundred or more. I have been careful of the source from which I secure my plants. I have Montague Free's book and Helen Van Pelt Wilson's. I have searched for a solution to my problems but am not satisfied I have spotted my trouble. First I notice my Queen Neptune buds began to look more like a shiny berry -- many never came out in a natural way. The single violets had similar trouble -- but buds were slender and shiny with calyx unnaturally short -- normal buds being plump and calyx well developed. These plants seem healthy and produce many normal flowers. The centers of plants are healthy -- no sign of mites unless this condition is a sign. The stem is normally developed too.

Mrs. Elsie Morris, Sheridan, Ore.

A: I am stumped on this and would suggest that you spray regularly with Optox or N.N.O.R. or any other good spray that you have. Also, if

you are near an agricultural school why not send or take a few of the shiny berrylike buds to them. Seed pods are shiny and look like a berry but they form after the blossom drops off. Don't think that because you didn't pollinate that you couldn't have a seed pod as our little friends the flies, ladybugs etc. can do it for us. Hope that you will let us know just what the "berries" are and what caused them. Members -- please help with this problem -- do you know a solution?

Q: If I use sodium selenate on my violets then when I repot my plants is it alright to put that dirt on my garden or should I put it some place like on my outside flower beds?

Ella Hedrick, Kokomo, Ind.

A: You can put your old soil that has been treated with sodium selenate in your flower beds but never on the beds that you grow vegetables in as sodium selenate is a dangerous poison and would get in the vegetables.

Q: Please, someone tell me, what color flowers does Red Velvet have? Mine have pink. What's wrong with my Painted Girls? The flowers should be white with orchid border but mine are solid orchid. What to do about them?

When my plants get long neck, I break off all the largest leaves and plant up to where I pulled leaves off with good results. If the plant is in bloom, it keeps right on blooming -- never a set back. I have been doing this for three years and it seems to make my plants bloom more. I keep all my violets in three inch plastic pots, none larger.

Stella Lavengood, Hillside, Ill.

A: Red Velvet is a dark red with the usual purplish cast that most reds have. Painted Girl very often reverts back to a solid orchid color. Try putting down some leaves and you may raise a plant that looks the way it is supposed to. Have heard of many cases where a Painted Girl reverts to orchid after it has bloomed normally for quite a period. Apparently the young plants blossom the way that they are supposed to. Thank you so much for your suggestions for a "long necked" plant. I guess that we all have them at some time and it is nice to know what to do with them so that they will not become unsightly.

Q: After working on my violets for about three years I succeeded and have quite a bit of bloom. Now I have a new problem. My blooms open beautifully, but fall off about half an hour after watering plant. I only water if plant feels dry. I also have tried to water from top and bottom.



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Same result. I use room temperature water. The plants are on pebble filled saucers but I don't allow the water to be high enough to touch the plant pot. I have no leaking gas and plants get plenty of fresh air. Please advise if there is anything to prevent this.

Mrs. Sophie Bullock, Philadelphia, Penna.

A: It certainly sounds as though you have ideal conditions for growing your plants. I am wondering on what varieties this occurs as some plants have a tendency to self shed while others retain their blossoms until they are dried up and the edges turn brown unless you pick them off. Do you mean that the blossom opens say in the morning and if you water by noon the blossom drops or do you mean that after you go around and water, some of the blooms that have been on for a few days drop off? Anyone having this same experience please write in and tell what you have done to correct it.

Q: Could you give me a list of all patented African violets or else tell me where I could obtain it?

Mrs. Philip Hirn, Van Wert, Ohio

A: On Page 107 in the Members' Handbook there is a list of Patented plants. Since that list was published Pink Wonder from Ulery Greenhouse has been added to the list. This is the 1952-1953 edition of the Handbook.

Q: I would like to find out what causes buds to dry up on my African violets. This has happened to several of my plants recently. Last winter I began using "New Plant Life" and my plants were in blossom for months. However, when I went on vacation, I put all plants down in the basement where it would be cool, setting them in peat moss and vermiculite which was well dampened, and they survived for two weeks, and some had buds. When I returned and brought them upstairs again, the buds simply dried up, but the leaves were all a beautiful green and so healthy looking.

Evelyn M. Havens, Detroit, Mich.

A: Any sudden change can blast buds on African violets. Bringing them up from a cool moist basement to the heat of our last summer would be a shock to their systems. I imagine that by this time they have made their adjustment and are again blooming for you.

Q: Does anyone know of any way to hurry little plants along to the blooming stage? I use bottom heat for rooting and raise under fluorescent lights, fertilize every three weeks with Plant Marvel and use Rapid Gro every three months.

Is there any real basis in fact for supposing leaves absorb -- the theory of leaf feeding?

Mrs. Olive Webb, Crystal Lake, Ill.

A: It would seem that you are doing everything possible to make the little plants bloom but perhaps some reader has a pet method that he or she will share with us.

In regard to the second question Mrs. Geo. Mayer, of Illinois gave a talk at the Convention in Nashville and she recommends foliar feeding as an excellent way of using liquid ferti-

lizer. She had two plants to use as examples. The one fed thru the leaves was much larger and had many more blossoms. Had another report from a Pigeon and this lady reports that the foliage is much darker and richer looking and grows faster. This method of feeding also keeps the foliage clean and shiny. As this is a newer method of feeding would like to hear reports from some of our other members.

Q: I am wondering if anyone knows how long African violet seed is good for planting I have some which I produced myself but at present haven't room to start any new plants. The seed pod has ripened and I have removed it from the plant and I am hoping someone can tell me how long it is safe to keep it before planting.

Mrs. Thurza E. Beynon, Deep River, Ont., Can.

A: Two or three months if kept in a dry cool storage place. Members who have kept seed longer please let us know how long.

December Questions Answered

To Mrs. Henry Slade, Jr., Dekalb, Ill.

Plants grown in cooler temperatures are the ones that have the 'red backed leaves.' I keep my "Violet Cellar" temperature at sixty to sixty-five degrees except in the hot summer months when it is often eighty to ninety-five degrees. In winter at sixty to sixty-five degrees African violet foliage is dark green, shiny and red backed. As I grow under fluorescent lights entirely, everyone who sees my plants gives the fluorescent lights credit for the fine foliage but I know the fluorescent light has nothing to do with it, because during the hot high temperature months when the "Violet Cellar" often goes from eighty-five to ninety degrees the same plants gradually lighten from the dark red foliage to a light dull green shade under the same fluorescent lights. I turn my lights on at 6 a.m. and off at 10 p.m. winter and summer alike. That is sixteen hours of light. My kitchen windows on the north contain thermometers that register sixty-eight to seventy degrees during the day and sixty degrees down to fifty-five degrees at night. I call this my best "daylight" window as plants bloom well and have red backed foliage. Put thermometer on the shelves by your plants for actual temperature as it will be a different temperature in the windows at different locations or different shelf levels. I use "daylight" fluorescent bulbs. Have tried others, but foliage growth suits me best with "daylight" bulbs.

Thelma Delgado, Junction City, Kans.

To Mrs. Katherine Shultz, Clinton, Ohio

I would like to say that Lady Geneva, Geneva's Daughter, Geneva Rainbow etc. will lose their white edge if not fed enough. Mine did and I wrote to the company I purchased it from and they told me these plants require a little more fertilizing than other singles. Mine are alright now but my experience is to be careful with fertilizer.

Mrs. Everette Olsen, Elroy, Wis.

About Lady Geneva loosing her white edge -- this seems to be very common with this variety.

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Route No. 3, Box 120

Newnan, Ga.

We had a plant with an eighth inch border that I was very proud of, but in the next blooming, the edge was mostly imaginary, it was so slight. After blooming again, the edge came back full and beautiful. I have watched this variety since and find that every other blooming has a heavy border and vice versa. Set your plant back away from the light until blooms and buds are all gone; then when it blooms again it will be O.K. Other Genevas will do this trick more or less, but not like Lady Geneva. I would suggest that you try Rippling Geneva. It holds its color better, it is a deeper color and has a much prettier leaf. It is a plant that really catches the eye. You might call it a 'must' for any true African violet fan or collector. In regard to plants not blooming I often recommend changing the plant from one location to another to find a location that suits that particular plant. Sometimes people report that a plant will behave good for months in a certain place and refuse to bloom later at a different season. We know for certain that some varieties will not do their best where others will really flourish. Some people keep their homes too hot and dry. We try to keep our rooms at seventy-two degrees.

James M. Everett, Lockwood, N. Y.

September Questions Answered

To R. C. Billmaier, Toledo, Ohio

"Louise" can be purchased from Mrs. Wayne LaMar, 3200 Cheverly Ave., Cheverly, Md.

Mrs. Guy Sutton, Alexandria, Va.

To Mrs. Edw. G. Burr, Flushing, N. Y.

You can almost forget rot of all kinds if you will use aluminum trays for your violets. We use them almost entirely and I press out my own from roll aluminum. Plants can rot from being either too dry or too wet. Some plants are heavy drinkers and some can take it or leave it alone. With trays, each plant gets just what it needs if your soil is right. We put either sand or vermiculite one-half inch deep in trays. A mixture of both works well. Our trays are 1" x 6" x 26" and made of 28" roll aluminum. We usually have twelve hundred to fifteen hundred plants of all sizes and our trouble usually comes from a few plants in saucers. N. N. O. R. will heal early stages of rot and springtails will attack a plant with crown rot. N. N. O. R. will kill them.

James M. Everett, Lockwood, N. Y.
To Mrs. Ed. Mahley, Coffeyville, Kans.

and

Mrs. E. F. Kemper, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Good soil is cheap if you use your muscles instead of your pocketbook. Why use old soil anyway? We wet soil and cover pans with aluminum foil and bake in oven at two hundred fifty degrees for one hour. This steams it good and kills all but one weed seed. No harm is apparently done to soil, but we let it stand a day or two before using.

James M. Everett, Lockwood, N. Y.
To Mrs. Verna Z. Wick, Miami, Fla.

Perhaps you are getting your trouble from soil more than temperature. We had it one

hundred seven degrees and one hundred five degrees here recently and had no trouble. I have yet to see a commercial violet soil that won't pack. We use one-fourth sand, one-fourth garden soil, one-fourth woods dirt, and one-fourth swamp muck by measure. It works with us and works with others. We quit using sheep and cow manure that was aged for years under cover. It occasionally burned roots and drew black flies.

James M. Everett, Lockwood, N. Y.

To Mrs. Jas. F. Soldat, Elmhurst, Ill.

Don't worry about plants that go to seed. It takes a healthy plant to pollinate so easily. We have it happen once or twice a year and we usually have about three hundred in bloom all the time. Just now we have just one, a young Holly.

James M. Everett, Lockwood, N. Y.

If you are sure it isn't caused by an insect it may be the pollen bearing anthers split open and the pollen flies on the stigma of same flower or even on the others. This would cause seed pods to form. I have a Frieda that acts the same way. I have a very small strong magnifying glass and I looked in the center of the blossoms that fall and found them split open and the pollen exposed. This is the only plant I have that forms so many seed pods. Once in a while I will find one or two on some other plant. I keep the pods picked off Frieda now as there were so many on at one time that the plant stopped blooming. It is blooming again and I see pods are forming but not for long as I take them off as soon as I see them. At first I thought I would leave some on and get seed but I found one I had pollinated with pollen from another plant was getting nice and fat and those self pollinated

were at a standstill. I opened one up and there was no seed in it even after it had been left on for several months. I do not know what causes the pollen sacs to split open. I have another lovely red violet, a seedling with girl leaf -- all lobes and looks like a lot of little leaves at base of large leaf. I find that the pollen sacs are split on these too. I had not noticed it until just now as I have been removing the pod as soon as the flowers fell as it is first bloom and I didn't want to weaken the plant. I may leave one on just to see what happens. I can even see some pollen on the petals where it fell when they split open so I am sure some will be on the stigma. I am going to use some of the pollen to pollinate another flower and will see if it takes. I will let you know what happens. I like the Question Box very much. I too wish more would give answers.

Mrs. George Stanley, Madison, Conn.

I had a Red Girl that had a freak blossom formation. Each pistil turned into the anthers so self pollinated. Every single bloom grew that way. Usually the pistil sets off at an angle. If you will examine your plant you may find freak formation.

Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

To Root and Crown Rot sufferers:

In the September 1953 issue of the African Violet Magazine I noticed that a number of writers are troubled with root and crown rot. Two years ago I started collecting a few African violets. Frankly, I never had tried to grow a blade of grass and knew nothing about plants. From the very first I had no luck. We live in an apartment and do not have too many ex-

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posures and also have gas for cooking. However, I armed myself with Montague Free's book and Helen Wilson's book and believe me I could recite some parts of the books by heart. I have referred and re-read them so much. The plants would be beautiful little things when I brought them home, only to have them stop blooming as "they entered the door." They would grow for awhile, (beautiful leaves) but no flowers and like all novices I would repot -- in soil from the grower, especially for African violets. They seemed to stand still. After awhile I noticed they were getting smaller rather than larger. Over the two years a number of plants have died and I have bought others. Finally I assumed I must have Mite, so with precautions I gave the plants selenate. One day I turned a pot upside down to see if roots were coming through the drainage hole and I saw something move. I got my magnifying glass and looked and sure enough there were tiny white objects moving on the bottom of the pot. I can't give a good explanation of what they looked like or even a drawing but I knew I had nematodes. I had used selenate, Optox, soap and water, Chlorox and water, all the things the books said to use and these "critters" were still alive and kicking, so I must have nematodes. As we live only about thirty miles from Penns Grove decided to visit Neil Miller and see what he had to offer about my pests. The Millers are two of the nicest, kindest people one could ever meet. Mr. Miller listened to my tale of woe and then looked at me and said, "You have symphilids." "They will eat the roots right off the plants in time." These are tiny garden centipedes. He recommended a Chlorodane preparation to be put on top of the soil and in the saucer. That was about six weeks ago and today I can proudly report that the plants are growing. Several of the plants have buds on. The reason that I am telling you this is because if a lot of people are like me they just don't look at the bottom of the pots and I feel that many a person who has root rot may have these "little demons."

Mrs. Jos. A. McFadden, Philadelphia, Penna.

I have received so much help from the African Violet Magazine I would like to contribute this idea. When repotting a violet -- run the blade of a rather blunt knife around the inside of the pot. I use an old paring knife that has lost its wooden handle for this. Gently lift up the plant firmly with a table fork and reset.

Mrs. E. C. Dickerson, Pattonsburg, Mo.

THE END

ORCHIDS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, HOUSE PLANTS

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ProtectoTape being applied to pot rim.

Guarding the health and vigor of his plants is a dedicated chore of the African violet grower; a chore because of the plant's sensitivity to its environment. For example, a particular bane of the African violet grower is caused by contact of the lower leaf stems with the rim of the violet pot resulting in drooping leaves. An African violet whose leaves are drooping or falling off is usually diagnosed as suffering from petiole rot. One possible explanation for this condition is that chemical salts, which crystallize out of solution as a result of watering and feeding with liquid plant foods, accumulate around the inside of the pot rim. It is contact with these strong chemical deposits or accretions that causes the sensitive plant stems to be damaged, droop and eventually fall off.

Since feeding the plants with chemicals is essential to their healthy growth, discontinuing this practice obviously cannot be used as a means of preventing petiole rot. Changing the type of pot from the garden variety clay pot to one of glazed ceramic also fails to improve the situation for accretions will form regardless of the nature of the pot.

Dipping the pot rim in molten paraffin has been used by some growers. But this system, too, has failed to eliminate the problem.

The most practical system involved placing a strip of some impervious material around the rim of the pot so as to provide a barrier between the chemicals and the underside of the violet leaves. First to be used in this manner was aluminum foil. But while aluminum is resistant to attack by most common chemicals, it is particularly susceptible to corrosion by plant food chemicals, resulting in discoloration of the foil and eventual pitting and disintegration. Furthermore, because of its lightness, aluminum foil is easily disturbed and damaged during watering and other normal plant care operations.

The eventual solution to the problem, which succeeded both in eliminating petiole rot and incorporating the advantages of a corrosion-proof metallic tape, was discovered by Mrs. Kenart Rahn of Illinois, who used a three-fourth inch wide strip of lead alloy tape supplied by the Graybar Metal Specialties Company* and known as "ProtectoTape." In describing a seventeen inch leaf-spread violet she is readying for

show, Mrs. Rahn said that she ". . . could never have brought it to its present size without the lead alloy tape because I had to replace the aluminum foil so often. The 'salts' clouded it over and ate through it. It was difficult even to reach the pot rim to replace the foil. But now I haven't had to change the lead tape at all and the same original strip is as good as new after having been in use for more than six months." Mrs. Rahn pointed out, too, that in cultivating the surface of the soil, aluminum foil must be removed. It fits so loosely that it comes off and interferes with the process, but lead alloy tape ("ProtectoTape"), she says, fits so snugly it's ". . . almost like a part of the pot and stays right on."

ProtectoTape can be used over and over again. When repotting, it is easily moved to the new pot rim because it doesn't tear and no glue is needed to keep it in place. It readily adjusts from one thickness of rim to another and can even be cleaned off and smoothed out to its original wrinkle-free surface, something which can't be done with other tapes. Because of the pliability of lead, once pressed into shape there is no tendency to "spring back" as with most other metals.

The illustration shows some of Mrs. Rahn's plants with ProtectoTape being applied to the pot rim. The tape can be installed so that it is practically invisible to the casual observer or it can be used to enhance the appearance of the rim of the pot by taking advantage of the soft, gray patina that forms naturally on the surface of the lead alloy. Furthermore, it is heavy enough to stay put, and has sufficient strength to resist tearing and other mechanical abuse.

African violet growers can now rest secure in the knowledge that lead, the metal which helped preserve the vegetation in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, will keep the leaves of their plants straight and sturdy and that the droopy leafed African violet and petiole rot can be a thing of the past.

*Lead Industries Association, 420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

*Box 1529 Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.

THE END



NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1; for June, March 1st.

ELGIN ILLINOIS

The Lady Constance Violet Club of Elgin, Illinois elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Albert Schleif
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Merrill Boone
Secretary,	Mrs. Earl Cremeens

ENGLEWOOD COLORADO

The Friendly African Violet Society of Englewood, Colorado, celebrated its first birthday on October 27, 1953. For this occasion the president, Mrs. William Campbell carried out the African violet motif in a beautiful cake which she had decorated with real violet blossoms and one birthday candle.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the members' homes. The following officers were re-elected for the coming year:
 President, Mrs. William Campbell
 Vice-Pres., Mrs. Glenn Clayton
 Secy. & Treas., Mrs. L. J. Woodman

The membership is limited to sixteen members and are Affiliated with the National Society.

Below: Members of the Friendly African Violet Society of Englewood, Colorado.



Readers Contest — A membership for 1 year in the Society will be given Mrs. F. L. Broome, Chattanooga, Tennessee and Mr. and Mrs. Roy K. Martin, Independence, Missouri as the contest result was a tie between these two entries.

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee County African Violet Society elected the following officers for 1953-1954:

President,	Mrs. Marvin Lutropp
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. G. Birkholz
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. J. J. Hinton
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Alvin Bromm
Mem. Secy.,	Mrs. Joseph Stephens
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. J. Lazynski

The monthly meeting place has been changed and in the future all the meetings will be held at the Ambassador Hotel, 2308 Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the second Friday of each month at 1:30 p. m.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

The Annual meeting of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club was held on November 10, 1953 at the Waverly Inn, Cheshire, Connecticut.

The following officers were elected for a two year period, to hold office in 1954 and 1955:

President,	Mrs. Ralph Filson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. George Stetson
Secretary,	Mrs. T. Y. Ramsdell
Treasurer,	Mrs. Howard Gilbert

Correction

In the September issue the officers for the Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton, Ohio were erroneously listed. The corrected list is as follows:

President,	Mrs. B. A. Hall
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Clyde Demmitt
Secretary,	Mrs. L. K. Harris
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wm. Weiss

OHIO VALLEY

The following officers were elected to serve the Ohio Valley African Violet Club for the year 1953-1954:

President,	Mrs. John W. Cochran
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. George Philbaum
Secretary,	Mrs. Abe Hodge
Treasurer,	Mrs. Jessie Powell

Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at the Garden Center at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.

SHERIDAN NEW YORK

On October 26, 1953 the Sheridan African Violet Society of Sheridan, New York, entertained the members of the Erie County Chapter of the African Violet Society of America.

The ladies of the Erie, Pennsylvania and vicinity were met and taken to the home of Mrs. George Burns in Dunkirk, New York for breakfast. After visiting and viewing Mrs. Burns' many lovely plants the group went on to Sheridan for the regular club meeting. After the meeting they viewed the plant display arranged by the Sheridan Chapter.

After the luncheon arranged by the Sheridan members the group went to Portland to see violets that were for sale by a member of the Dunkirk-Fredonia African Violet Society.

At this point the Sheridan and Erie County Chapters said their good-byes and parted. There were seventeen ladies from Erie and eight from Sheridan in the group. The Erie County Chapter were to entertain the Sheridan Chapter on November 18, 1953.

ANOKA MINNESOTA

The Misanoka African Violet Club at Anoka, Minnesota is just two years old and now has eleven active members.

In April 1952 they held their first show with one hundred and eighteen violets on display with eighty-seven varieties included. Four members had violets to display that first year. One hundred and twenty-eight people registered in the guest book.

In August of 1952 the club had a booth at the County Fair with sixty-five varieties on display. A drawing was held on each of the three days of the fair and a lovely plant was given away, which created much interest and made the violet show one of the main interests at the Fair.

At Christmas time 1952 the club members donated violets which were decorated and presented as a collective gift to the ladies at the G. A. R. Home in Anoka.

On April 3 and 4, 1953 they held their second annual African Violet Show at Main Motor Sales Room in Anoka. The show had a musical theme. Each section of the tables had a sign with a song title and violets grouped accordingly. Some of special interest were:

"Easter Parade" where each violet was a "girl" and above each plant was perched a tiny hat made by members of the club. "Wedding of the Painted Dolls" the minister was Purity and wore a top hat and a tiny Bible was placed in front of the plant. The groom was Mentor Boy and Blue Boy was the best man, above each was a top hat. The bride was Innocence and wore a tiny white satin hat with long veil, and had a bouquet with tiny white satin streamers. The bridesmaids were Pink Girl and Red Girl with pink and yellow



Meeting of the Erie County African Violet Society at the home of Mrs. George Burns.

bouquets and hats to match. The ring bearer was Pink Miniature and had a tiny ring on a lace trimmed white satin pillow. Star Girl was the flower girl with a tiny basket made of shells.

"Emperors Waltz" grouped all violets with names as gypsy, prince, princess, king, queen, etc. Red King wore a purple robe, was topped with a gold crown and held a scepter. Red Queen also wore a purple robe.

"Anchors Aweigh" grouped violets with nautical names such as the Neptunes, Victory, Norseman, Sunrise, etc., and the section was adorned with a gold gilded anchor and ships wheel.

"Double Dare You" grouped all double varieties, both named varieties and seedlings.

There was a section for novelty planters, propagation and others.

There were one hundred and sixty-seven plants on display with one hundred and forty-nine varieties included.

Ten plants were given away at a drawing held just before closing the last day. Each member was a hostess and spent at least part of a day at the show to greet visitors, answer questions and explain the lovely violets. Each member wore a pin with her name on it. The pins were made of plastic pot markers, with a purple nylon violet and leaves attached to the narrow end and the member's name painted on the wide end of the marker.

Over four hundred visitors registered at the guest book.

SHOW CALENDAR

LAURENCE KANSAS-

The Laurence, Kansas African Violet Club will hold their spring show on April 3 and 4, 1954 at the Community Building.

MARYSVILLE KANSAS-

The Marysville, Kansas African Violet Society will hold their spring show on Sunday, April 11, 1954.

SIOUX CITY IOWA-

The third annual African Violet Show at the Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, Iowa, will be presented Saturday, April 10, 1954, from 9:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m.

DAVENPORT IOWA-

The Davenport African Violet Society, Chapter One, is sponsoring an African Violet Exhibit on Sunday, March 28, to be held at the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery -- in which the African Violet Clubs of Davenport, Rock Island, and Moline will participate.

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA-

The Sacramento Saintpaulia Society will hold its third Annual Show on April 10 and 11, in the gymnasium of the local Y. M. C. A. at 2228 21st Street, Sacramento.

ROCK ISLAND ILLINOIS-

The Rock Island African Violet Club will sponsor a show at Rock Island Watch Tower, Black Hawk State Park on March 21.

The show will be a quad-city event, with African Violet clubs from Moline and Davenport participating, also. Besides the exhibit of plants, colored slides and films will be shown.

DETROIT MICHIGAN

The Detroit African Violet Club of Detroit, Michigan celebrated its second year as a club, and installation of officers, with a luncheon, on October 14, 1953.

Each member and guest was presented with a corsage. African violets were given as door prizes. A "Backward Glance" at the year just passed was read by our retiring president, Mrs. J. Aboud. Mrs. Foster, the Club Photographer, showed colored slides of all the club meetings for the past year.

Projects for the year were, club pins, slides, field trips, year books and African violets grown to be given away.

The new officers for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. J. Biel
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. A. C. Foster
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. Aboud
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. L. Biel
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. B. Reaume

LANSING MICHIGAN

At the recent election meeting of the Double 10 African Violet Club of Lansing, Michigan, the following were elected to take office in January 1954:

President,	Mrs. Earl E. Logue
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. George C. Greminger
Secretary,	Mrs. Roy H. Olson
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. B. Roe

Meetings are held in the evening of the second Wednesday of the month in the homes of the members, with an occasional meeting held in the social rooms of the local florists.

BEATRICE NEBRASKA

The Beatrice, Nebraska African Violet Society held their second annual guest day at the Episcopal Parish House on October 2, 1953. Mrs. H. M. Souders welcomed the guests. A panel discussion on "Seedlings and Cuttings" was held. Mrs. R. S. Stratford presided. Speakers were Mrs. F. W. Corstens, Mrs. A. C. Jeffry, Mrs. E. L. Novotney, Mrs. R. B. Winter and Mrs. Anna Rhodes.

A beautiful blooming plant of Mentor Boy was given as a door prize, and a pot of planted seeds prepared during the panel discussion was also awarded. Slides of the spring show held by the club were shown. Refreshments of cookies and coffee were served from a beautifully decorated table.

At the November meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. A. C. Jeffry
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. S. Stratford
Secretary,	Mrs. A. J. Sander
Treasurer,	Mrs. Anna Rhodes

Installation of officers will be held at the December meeting and they will assume office in January.

RICHMOND VIRGINIA

The Richmond African Violet Society of Richmond, Virginia, at its October meeting, had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Thomas B. McKeeley of Arlington, Virginia discuss "The Fluorescent Way of Growing African Violets." He and Mrs. McKeeley showed beautiful slides of new varieties taken in their home and new varieties from commercial greenhouses.

For the November program, they were addressed by Mrs. Frank C. Kautenburg, consultant for Sears, Roebuck and Company, on "The African Violet in Home Decoration."

The December program included readings and music appropriate for the Christmas season. In place of the usual gift exchange it was decided that this year they would take up a collection for the Research Program in which the National Violet Society is engaged.

A cordial invitation is extended to out of town visitors to attend any meeting during the season,

from October through May. Meetings are held at the Battery Park Community House, 2803 Dupont Circle, on the first Wednesday of each month at ten-thirty A.M.

ROCKFORD ILLINOIS

The Rockford African Violet Club of Rockford, Illinois elected the following officers at their September 17, 1953 meeting:

President,	Mrs. Herbert Rosene
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Oscar Rosene
Treasurer,	Mrs. Albert Johnson
Secretary,	Mrs. Ada Solem
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Elof Carlson

This club was erroneously listed as the Winnebago County African Violet Club in the list of Affiliated Chapters.

MOORHEAD MINNESOTA

The Red River Valley African Violet Club of Moorhead, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. L. J. Goeson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. I. Nelson
Secretary,	Mrs. Fred Christian
Treasurer,	Mrs. C. A. Running

JACKSON MICHIGAN

The Jackson African Violet Club of Jackson, Michigan met with its acting president, Mrs. Karl Beiswenger on November 10, 1953 for their regular business meeting and election of officers. This being the clubs third birthday Mrs. Beiswenger reviewed the clubs past activities.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Lisle Goff
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. K. Watson
Secretary,	Mrs. Robert Preston
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. M. Fischer

Names were then drawn for gifts for the Christmas party to be held on December 8 at the home of Mrs. E. B. Baker.

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LAURENCE KANSAS

The Laurence African Violet Club of Laurence, Kansas elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Fred Richardson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Olive Lawson
Secretary,	Mrs. J. A. Dove
Treasurer,	Mrs. Fred Kloepfer

The newly elected officers were installed at the September 4, 1953 meeting.

Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month in the members' homes.

COLOR SLIDE CONTEST winners are:

Class 1 — No 1st prize; 2nd prize, Mrs. M. O. Huber, Galva, Ill.; 3rd prize, Mrs. Samuel Greenfield, Galesburg, Ill.

Class 2 — 1st prize; Mrs. B. R. Hoerr, Oakland, Calif.; 2nd prize, Mrs. George Stetson, Portland, Conn.; 3rd prize, Mrs. B. R. Hoerr, Oakland, Calif.

Class 3 — 1st prize, Mrs. L. Squibb, Pittsburgh, Penna.; 2nd and 3rd no entries.

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SIOUX CITY IOWA

The Siouxland African Violet Society held its second annual Show at the Sioux City Art Center on Saturday, May 9, 1953 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Twenty exhibitors participated and four hundred fifty visitors attended. Plants and supplies were sold to pay the expenses.

Mrs. Marie Madsen and Mrs. Alson Smith were general chairmen, assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Sheffield, registration; Mrs. Vern Larson, staging; Mrs. John Adair, reception; Mrs. Frank Thomas, Jr., plant sales; Mrs. Nellie Martin, supplies sales and Mrs. Louise Feldtman, demonstration.

VIRGINIA BEACH VIRGINIA

The Princess Anne African Violet Society of Virginia Beach, Virginia held a most successful show in April 1953 at the Halifax Hotel at Virginia Beach.

The theme of the show was "Violets on Parade" and there were over four hundred fifty plants on display. The large front room of the hotel was a mass of colors ranging from white to the deepest blues and reds.

Breathtaking loveliness surrounded a miniature Maypole of five tiny violets held by five tiny dolls in beautiful dresses. This arrangement won the blue and gold ribbon for the most outstanding arrangement in the show.

There was a small rocking chair filled with pink violets; and the Queen's Coronation Chariot in gold with coachmen and horses of violets. A bird bath filled with many different varieties of violets sat next to a gated parade ground.

Hand painted pottery containers were given as first prizes in each class.

The show was visited by a number of people from other states and comments ranged from "If this is what Heaven is like, I'll take some" to "Charming and exquisite arrangements of brilliant, flaming glory." We say "Hats off to Violets on Parade -- May they keep parading."

DAVENPORT IOWA

The Davenport, Iowa, Rock Island and Moline, Illinois African Violet Societies held a "get acquainted" dinner and program at the Davenport Lend-A-Hand Club Rooms on Saturday evening November 7, 1953. Mrs. Stanley Thomas of Marion, Iowa was guest speaker for the evening and illustrated her interesting talk with colored slides. There were forty-five members present.

There are now six African Violet Clubs in the Tri-Cities, most of them less than a year old.

At the September 11, 1953 meeting of the Davenport African Violet Society, Chapter One, the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. A. A. Heinkel
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. J. Fries
Secy. & Treas.,	Mr. W. H. Niemann

THE END

Introducing A Speaker In 1 Minute

Florence Foltz, Penna.

How many times have you attended a meeting, anticipating hearing a good speaker only to have half the joy taken out of the occasion by a chairman who literally puts the audience to sleep with her introduction of the speaker? The approved timing for a good introduction is one minute, and with a little practice you will find that it can be done . . . and graciously too. However, you must resist the temptation to extend your time with personal anecdotes.

For the actual introduction, all the audience wants to know about a speaker is where she is from, what she does, and what specifically gives her authority to address this meeting. It is usually recommended to refer to "our guest" or "our speaker" while giving the facts, and to save the name for the moment when you signal the speaker to come forward.

If I were to introduce an out-of-town speaker whom I did not know, I would make an attempt to find out a few pertinent facts "by mail" before the date of the meeting. Of course the speaker would not be told point blank that I needed a few "facts of her life." I would inquire as to how she would arrive -- train, car, etc. -- so that we could make arrangements for meeting and entertaining her until meeting time. A few well chosen statements about my work, family, plus general questions might induce her to reciprocate with a similar letter. On the other hand, if the speaker was a personal friend, this information would be known, and the introduction easier -- but just as brief.

Your one minute allows 100 to 120 words, so the important thing to remember is to select your facts, organize them in a logical order, and practice saying them until you are quite sure of yourself. It is neither necessary, nor desirable, to memorize the introduction, but a few notes on a card will remind you of key points.

As an example, let us pretend that we are at an African violet club meeting. At the proper time, the chairman says: "Madam President, members of the Lewistown African Violet Society, and Guests; our speaker this evening comes to us with a most unusual store of knowledge on the subject of the Saintpaulia. A past president of the African Violet Society of America, she has given countless hours of her time and energy toward the success of the National Society. Her home is in Cincinnati, Ohio, where, when she is not working in her present capacity as Treasurer of African Violet Society of America she is a devoted wife and mother to husband Arthur and her three children and grandchildren. Since I have heard our guest speak on previous occasions, I know the treat in store for you, and it is a real thrill to introduce our speaker -- my good friend, Myrtle Radtke."

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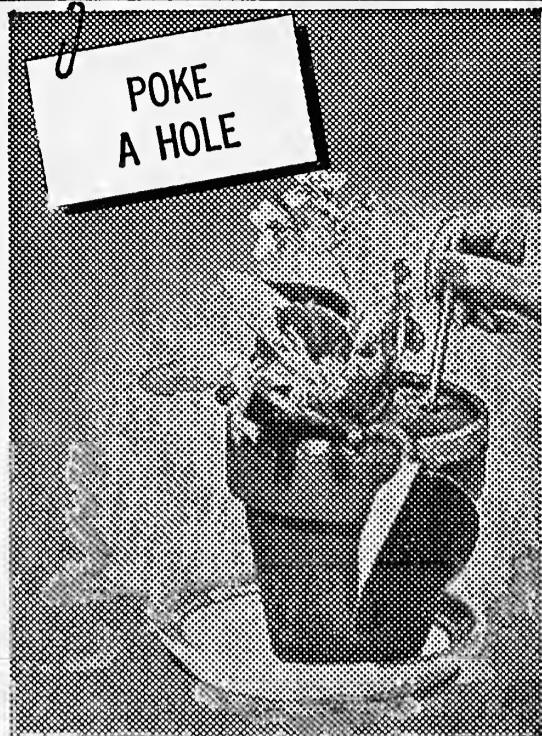
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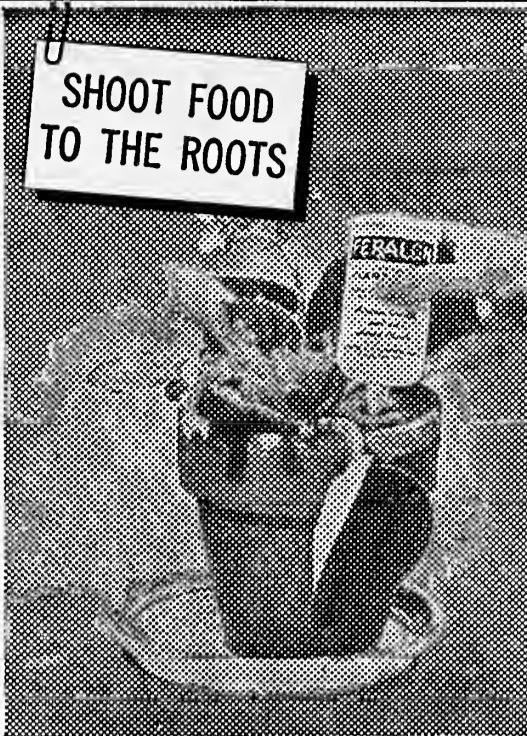
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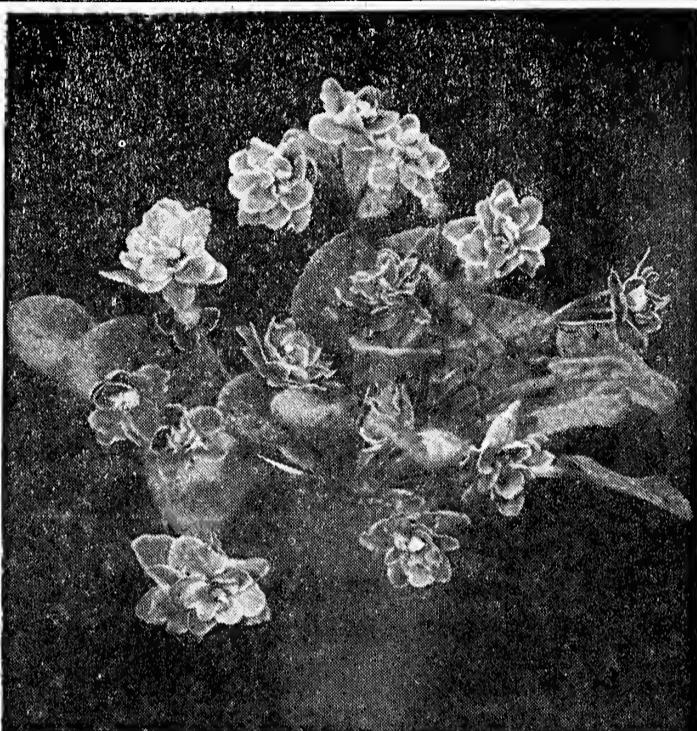
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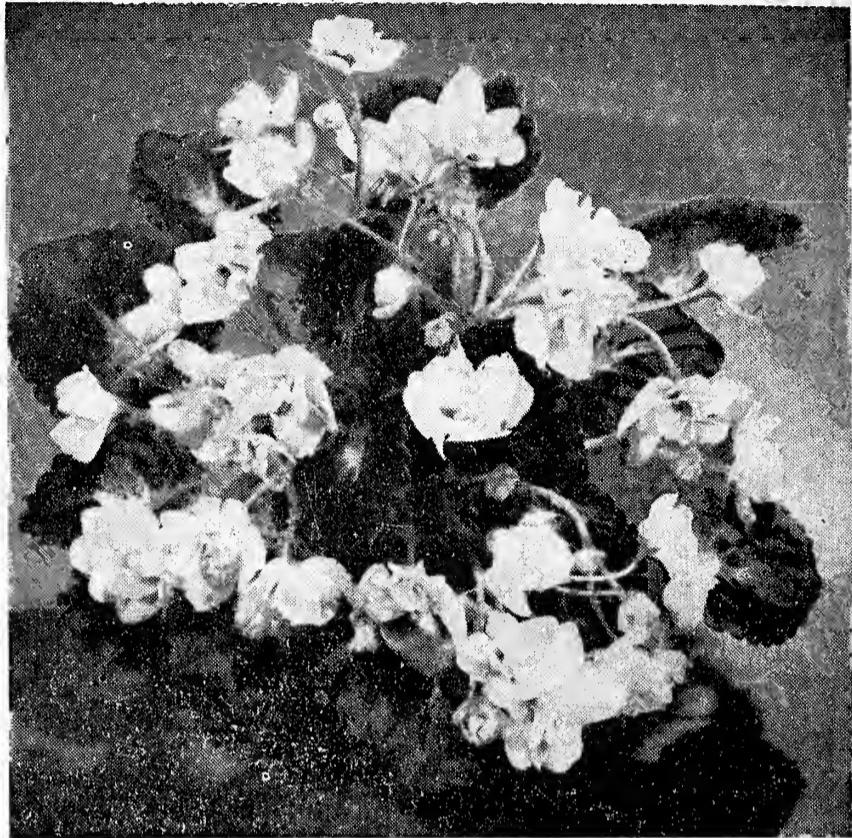
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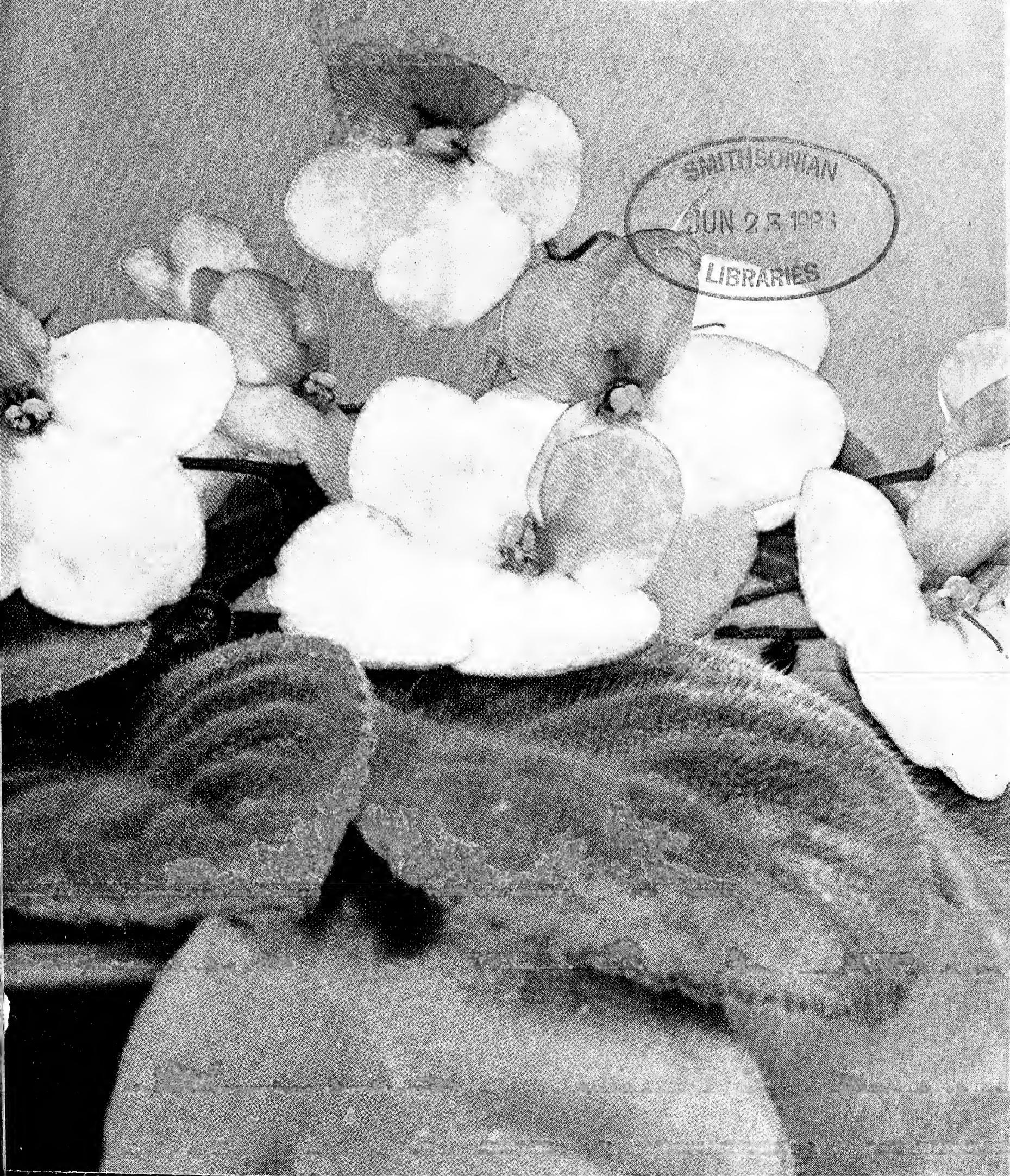
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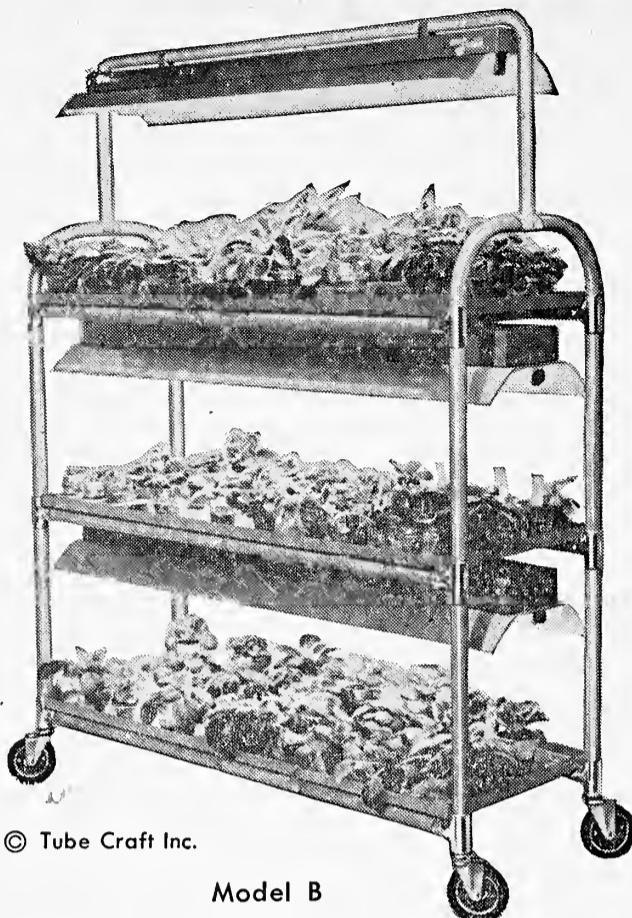
African Violet

MAGAZINE

JUNE 1954

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6





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Authentic African Violet Design, white background -- Pink, Perrywinkle and
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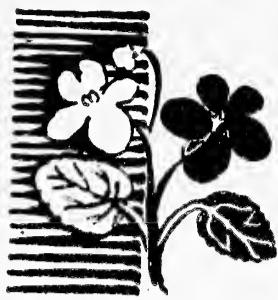
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SOCIETY OF AMERICA.**

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SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT**

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 7 June 1954 No. 4

Title	Page Number
Good Neighbors	
Florence Powers	3
Notice to Donors of Convention Awards	
Anna M. Layson	3
Young Bloomers	
Mrs. Frank Argo	5
Symphlid Damage	
.....	7
Library Notice	
.....	8
President's Message	
.....	9
A Flower Arranger Looks at African Violets	
Emily Stuebing	10
Tanga Province -- Home of the Saintpaulia	
Mrs. P. D. Barker	14
Seedlings Are Such Fun	
Clem Browning	17
History of Saintpaulia	
Evan Roberts	18
Research Put to Practical Use	
Henry C. Peterson	20
African Violet Fairyland	
.....	22
African Violets Are Not "Softies"	
Mrs. John H. Adair	23
My Green Thumb Came Naturally	
Rose M. Donnelly	24
Sterilizing Soil	
Catherine B. Shepherd	26
Life in a Bubble Bowl	
Shirley M. Heinsohn	28
Natures Way	
Marie Dannemiller	30
A Companion Plant for Our African Violets	
Henry Peterson	32
The Case of Our Delicate Friends	
Mrs. Robert Preston	34
Home Research on African Violets	
Edith Lundberg	35
And Now Episcias	
Alma Wright	40
Calling All Men	
.....	43
The African Violet Idea Bench	
.....	44
Homing Pigeon	
.....	46
New Affiliated Chapters	
.....	48
Question Box	
.....	50
Registration Report	
.....	56
Club News	
.....	58

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GOOD NEIGHBORS

Florence Powers, Philadelphia, Penna.

Some friendships begin in strange and interesting ways, and violet friendships are not exceptions. Recently the African Violet Society of Philadelphia became interested in the Garden Club of the Tuberculosis Section of the Valley Forge Army Hospital. Many members made frequent visits to the hospital, supplying a few plants, leaves, and so forth. Interest mounted, and our group has continued to supply them -- or been instrumental in supplying them -- with more plants and things with which to work. We then voted this group into our Society as honorary members. It was with great pleasure that we presented them with the African Violet Magazine and National membership this winter. Our club has found many lovely new violet friends.

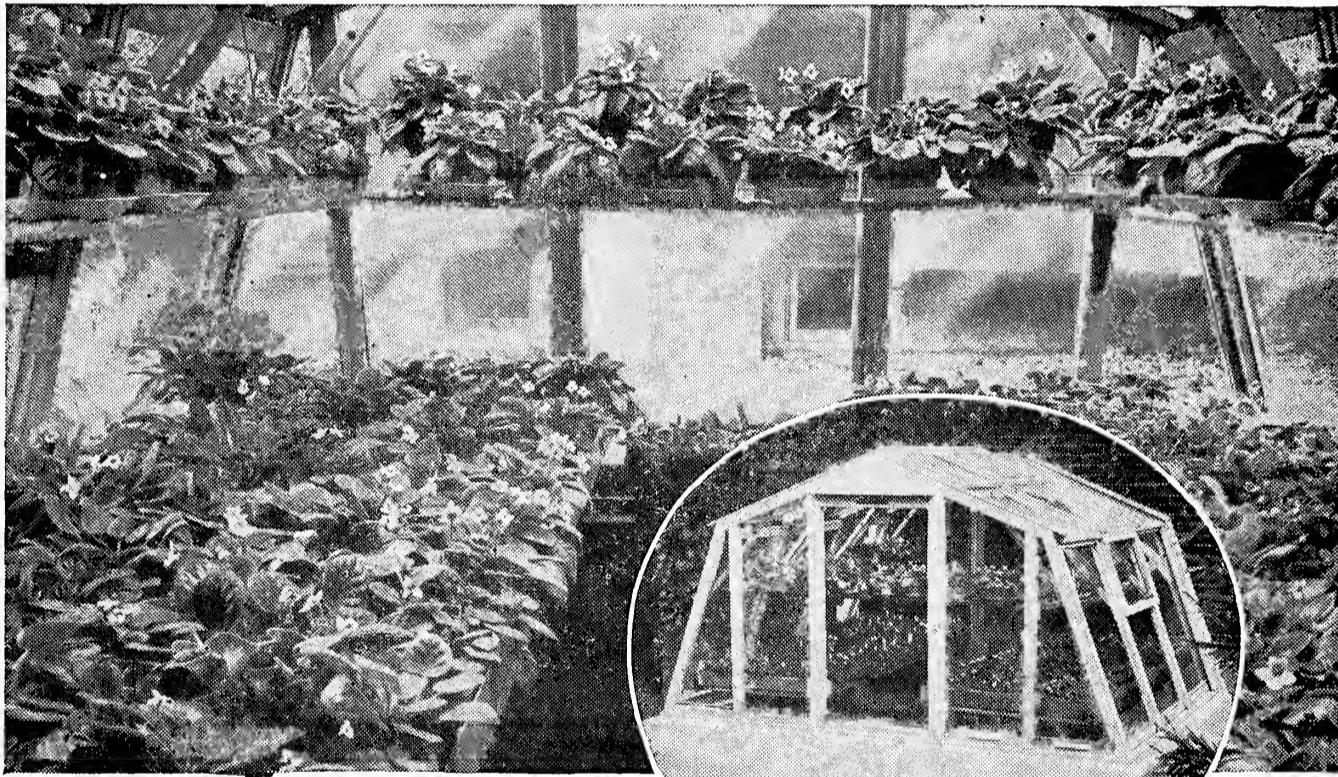
THE END

NOTICE TO DONORS OF CONVENTION AWARDS

Anna M. Layson, Awards Chairman
Maysville, Kentucky

Since African violets cannot be shipped over most of the country during the winter months it is recommended that growers and others offering cash awards for specimen plants of new introductions at the Annual Convention Show to make their announcements of these awards as far in advance of the fall months as possible. Members say that they wish there was more time allowed to procure a new introduction and develop it into a show plant. Plants are required to be in the possession of the exhibitor three months before entering in a show.

THE END



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Simply poke holes down to the roots...inject a squeeze or two from the jet-action container...and cover with soil. Feralon never burns. Almost immediately you may expect lovely blooms that seem to live forever.

Present supply is limited, but Feralon is on sale at Woolworth stores at only 89¢ per outfit (100 applications). Start using Feralon today!



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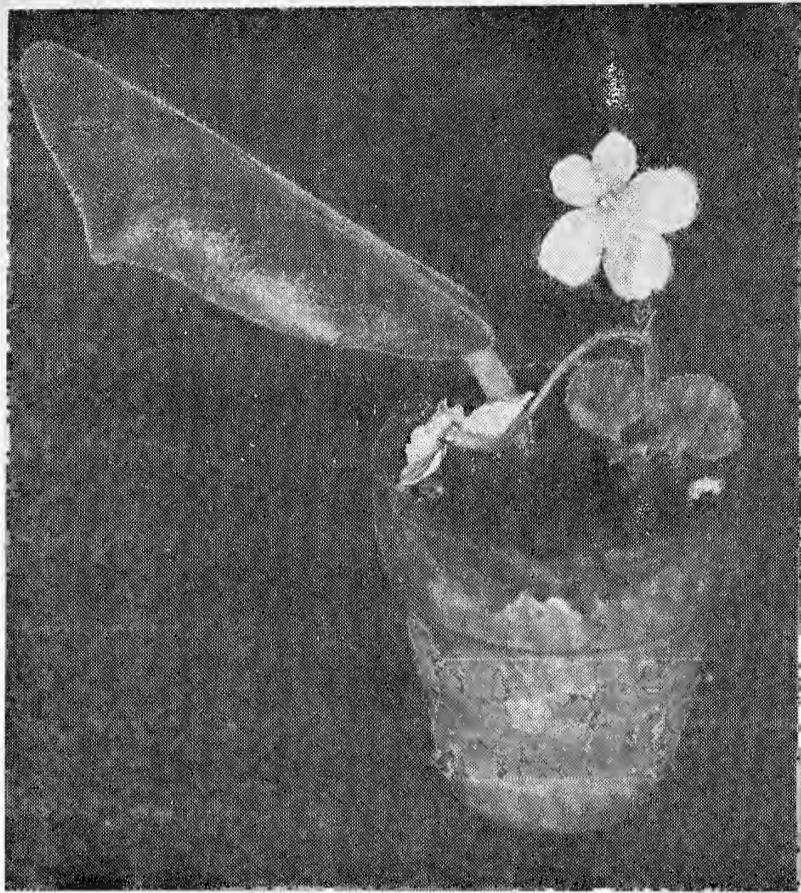
My 5 & 10 variety store doesn't have Feralon in stock at the present time. So please send _____ full size bottles postpaid, at \$1.00 each. Subject to guarantee of satisfaction. Enclosed \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

The store that should carry Feralon in my community is _____

Address _____



YOUNG BLOOMERS

Mrs. Frank Argo, Wright, Iowa

They bloom young for me! At least one of them did. A leaf accidentally broken from an unnamed pink violet plant -- itself, an exceptionally good bloomer -- was stuck in a small clay pot filled with good rich loam to which a little sand and peat moss had been added. It was set on the kitchen window sill where it received no extra care or attention. It was simply watered now and then, and often neglected. After a few weeks the leaves of the tiny plant appeared, and a very short time later a cluster of three buds appeared. All of these buds opened into full size blooms while the plantlet was just one-half inch high.

I had a commercial photographer make a 5" x 7" glossy print showing the mother leaf in the pot together with the tiny plantlet. The first bloom is withered but is still in place on its stem. The second has just opened and is an inch across -- twice the height of plantlet from which it came. This flower grew somewhat larger and the third bud which is behind and does not show in the picture also developed into a full size bloom.

This unique development aroused considerable interest among our friends, and we believe you might also be interested in it.

I am a member of the African Violet Society of America. African violets are my hobby. I have a triple fluorescent set-up, and grow nice thrifty plants, but this neglected, unnamed little orphan which turned out to be a prodigy is the only claim I can make to having anything really unusual.

THE END

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Blue Ridge *Lilac Time*
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TELL YOU WHAT . . .

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio. Make checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Please do not send them to the editor of the Magazine.

DUES — \$3.00 for a twelve months period. There are no \$2.00 memberships. The Magazine is included in each membership.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

ERRORS IN MEMBERSHIP CARDS, MAGAZINE ADDRESS, HANDBOOK LISTING OR FAILURE TO RECEIVE MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — you may subscribe to the African Violet Magazine for \$3.00. This is for a twelve months period. Membership in the Society is not included with subscription.

CURRENT ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost to members .75¢ per copy. To non-members \$1.00 per copy.

BACK ISSUES — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee and get a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make all checks for back issues payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 79 West Gibson Street, Canandaigua, N. Y.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Grace Rowe, 749 Columbia Street, Aurora, Illinois.

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Cost is \$5.50 for two. Orders for one binder are not accepted.

COLOR SLIDE PROGRAMS — write librarian 4720 Calumet Drive, S. W., Knoxville 19, Tennessee. Three months notice is required for reservation.

HOMING PIGEON — to join the Pigeon write to Iva Woods, 226 High Street, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. To drop out of a pigeon group or to find a lost one communicate with Mrs. Woods.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR LOCAL SHOWS — write Grace Rowe, 749 Columbia Street, Aurora, Illinois.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry Iowa.



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Somehow, somehow your editor mixed up two stories last time -- the "African Violets in Vancouver Washington" story by Anna Berg was cut short and the last two paragraphs of Rose Donneley's story "My Green Thumb Came Naturally" which is in this issue was added to it. What a MIX UP -- and I can't think of any way to gracefully unscramble it. I am MOST sorry Anna Berg . . . do forgive me! The missing part of your story will be published in the September issue as Part II, "African Violets in Vancouver Washington."

Vera Covert's story on seedlings had to be held over for the September issue. Also all show news will be in the September Magazine as will the Convention pictures and reports.

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — unless previous agreement is made with the editor pictures cannot be returned.

AFRICAN VIOLET PIN — may be purchased from the pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. The Pin, or Lapel Button for men, may be had in sterling silver and blue enamel for \$3.50 or in 14 carat gold and blue enamel for \$12.50, including state and federal tax, plus packing and shipping charges.

When ordering please print your name and address. This pin is for National members only. Profits from the sale of these pins are the jewelers only.

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK — is mailed out to all members of the Society. Write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee if you do not receive your copy.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS AND BROCHURES — specify number required when writing editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

SYMPHLID DAMAGE

Dear Mr. Roberts:

A year ago I had extensive crown rot among my African violet plants. I lost seventy-five plants and felt sure that there were worms in the soil, so I kept searching and sure enough I found that I had a lot of tiny white worms about one-fourth inch long and as thick as a thread.

I took some of the soil to the Agricultural Department in Erie. They analyzed the soil and informed me that I had symphylids. They told me to destroy the plants or use twenty-five per cent wettable lindane powder. I am afraid to use the powder as it may have a toxic effect upon me -- if I use it on all of my plants.

I checked four of my friends' plants and found that they had symphylids also. My friends are discouraged and want to give up raising African violets. I would not want to see this happen. I have been raising African violets for eight years and have been having wonderful success until my plants were invaded by these pests.

Is there any safe powder which could be used in the soil to get rid of the symphylids? I certainly need help with this problem.

I am enclosing a picture of some of my plants before the invasion of symphylids and am enclosing addressed stamped envelope for return of the picture.

Trusting that you may be able to help me

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. James R. Smith

Mrs. James R. Smith
3713 Beech Avenue
Erie, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of July 31 and the photograph of your African violet plants.

The recommendations of your Agricultural Department in Erie will not be toxic if you use the material according to directions and with caution. I suggest trying it on a few plants at first.

Other treatments have been recommended. These include:

1. Sterilizing the soil.
2. Working D.D.T. into the soil before planting.

Syphylids cause much more damage on African violets than is credited for. I think you have a good suggestion in having information published in the African Violet magazine. I'll forward your letter to the editor of the African Violet Magazine.

Yours very truly,
Evan Roberts



SHOW AS YOU GROW

Now you can do just this. With fluorescent lights, which have been proven to supply the necessary rays needed to grow most house plants, you may have the equivalent of a small greenhouse in your living room, kitchen or wherever you choose.

This furniture piece was designed after months of experimentation to accomplish that twofold purpose of **Growing** and **Showing**. Accent any room in your home with African Violets, Dwarf Roses, Petunias, or your choice of many other house plants.

The black stand above is only one of many models to choose from. This large stand complete with back mirror and two fixtures is offered at \$49.95. We suggest that you write for further information so that you may choose whichever size or color you wish for interior harmony.

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THE VIOLET HOUSE
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Blue Albino Girl—Slightly cupped, medium-dark blue flower on heart shaped girl foliage. Top side of leaf variegated white and deep green, underside silver with green veins.

Red Albino Girl—Sweet pea type red flower on heart shaped girl foliage. Top side of leaf variegated white and bronze green — white areas often splashed coppery-red — underside silver with green veins.

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(Closed Wednesdays)

LIBRARY NOTICE

COLOR SLIDE PROGRAMS

Mrs. R. G. Heinsohn, Librarian
4720 Calumet Drive, S. W., Knoxville 19, Tenn.

In order to simplify the required postage charge when color slides are borrowed by an Affiliated Chapter, a flat fee of \$1.00 per color slide program will be charged on all slides mailed out after September 1st. This \$1.00 fee will be payable at the time the reservation request for slides is made. Return postage will still be paid by the Chapter that borrows the program.

YEAR BOOKS

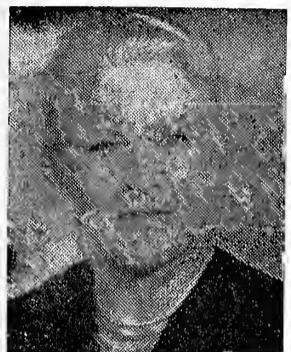
The Year Book collection has been enlarged and is now separated into five packets. Each of these contains a wealth of valuable suggestions and helpful information for the program chairman of any Affiliated Chapter. Notice of when these are available will be in September Magazine. Mrs. Trendler will serve as Year Book librarian.

ALBINO GIRLS



President's Message

REFLECTIONS



As I settle down to chat with you through these lines I seem to be emerging from a glorious dream of Fairyland with all its make-believe. The eighth annual Convention is now history that not a single member who attended will object to reading again and again. The pitch of festivity ran so high it is my earnest desire that it will take on the properties of infusion to you who could not attend.

I believe I echo the sentiments of every member who visited St. Louis, by saying I sincerely hope that each person who had any part in planning, preparing and executing the many phases of the Convention can feel the HYDROGEN power in those two words THANK YOU. Especially to our co-chairman, Virginia Zimmermann and Mildred Traubel; to our show chairman, Ede Moch; Neva Anderson, staging chairman; Thelma Usinger, in charge of registration; Ruth Smith handling the finances; Priscilla Landaker in charge of commercials; Aletha Martin, program coordinator; the commercial exhibitors and donors of awards goes a warm token of deep appreciation.

You will read detailed accounts of the speakers and their delivery, pictures of the tea at Shaw's Garden and of the specimen plants and exhibits will appear in a later issue but in passing I can not refrain from telling you who were not so fortunate to see "APRIL IN ST. LOUIS," it was a spectacular sight. Many, many SPECIMEN plants were carried from far and wide that made competition keen to win those sizeable cash awards, the Flora Cart, the plant stand, the silver bowls and the coveted Society Silver Cup. Congratulations to the WINNERS.

I am extremely pleased with the Silver Plate Award appropriated by Flower Grower Magazine. It was presented by Mr. Montague Free to Mrs. William Douglas of the African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh. The award is to be an annual one for outstanding leadership in promoting all phases of the Affiliated Chapter activities in accordance with the objectives of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Along with fun and excitement there was work to be done. Your Board of Directors met in sessions all day Wednesday before the Convention began. A few items of business covered are as follows:

1. The minutes of the board meeting in full text will be published in the September Magazine.
2. The financial report will be recorded in the September Magazine.
3. The proposed by-laws as printed in the March magazine were voted to be set aside for further consideration with legal advice, to be presented at the next annual meeting.
4. Careful consideration was given the registration for future Conventions -- this is the way it works:

Registration fee for entire Convention . . \$5.00
Registration fee for one day 3.00
Registration fee for one single meeting . 1.50

Members of African Violet Society only are eligible for registration. One registration admits both husband and wife, when either is a member. All registrations include admission to the Annual Show. Luncheons, Dinners and Banquets: Price for each dinner, luncheon and banquet is to be determined by the local committee. In all cases the charge shall be per plate.

5. One of the very happy moments was a cablegram from England carrying the news of an Affiliated Chapter with Mrs. Joy Hudson as its president.

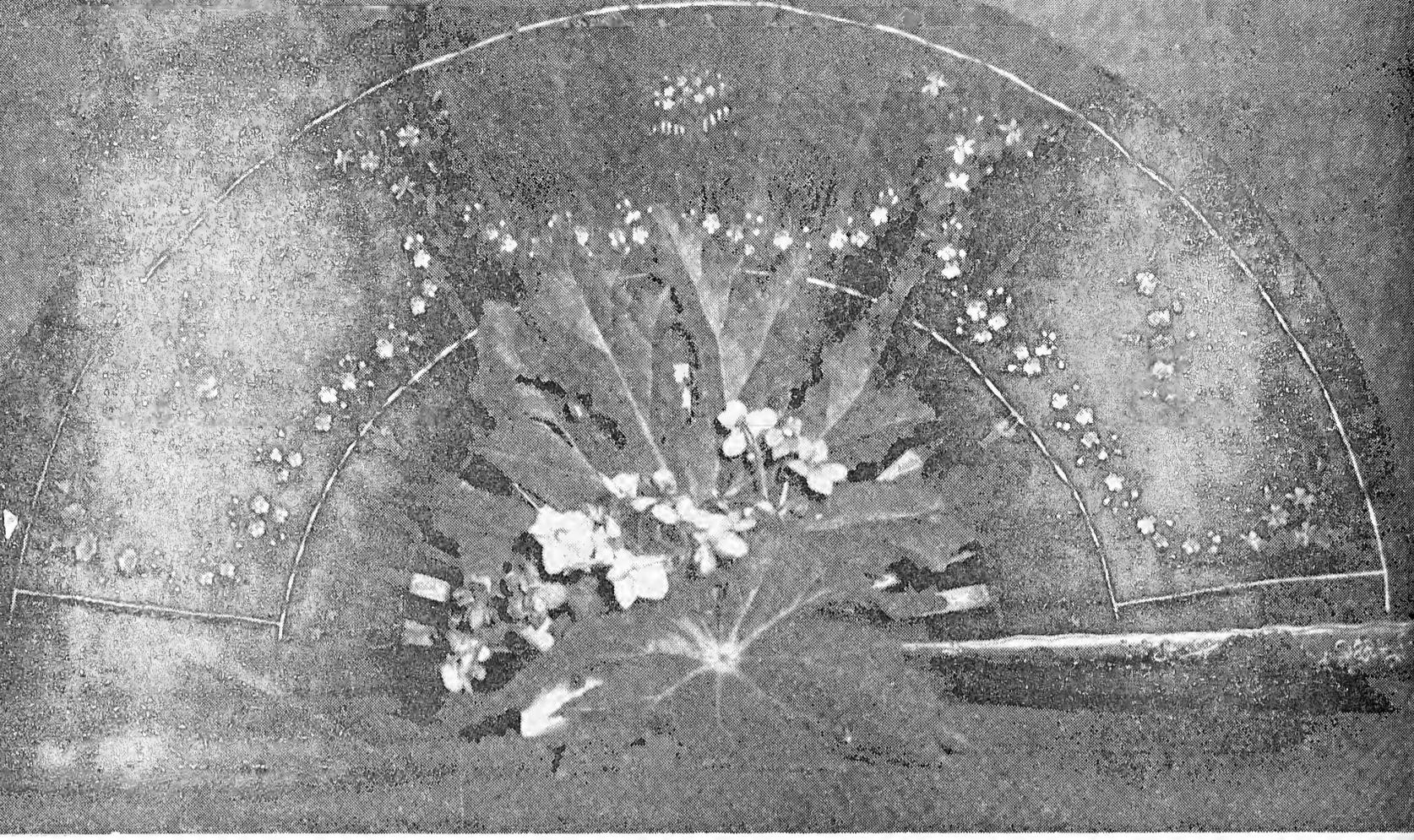
Now are you already planning to attend the 1955 Convention in Pittsburgh? It will be April 14, 15, 16, in the William Penn Hotel with Mrs. William Douglas as chairman.

Again I repeat, if you are fortunate enough to have a surplus in your treasury and do not know what to do with it remember the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund and the Research Committee. Neither can grow too large if we are to find the answers to such things as those nematodes you heard about and saw.

Yours for FINER African violets,

Cordially,

Ada Magel



Violets on the lace fan repeat the color of the violets in the arrangement. Begonia leaves hide the mechanics.

A Flower Arranger Looks at African Violets

Emily Stuebing, Pittsburgh, Penna.

With all the popular appeal of African violets, it does seem strange that so few are seen in arrangements. Of course some of you will say: "I have only two pots of violets and I simply can't take the flowers off of those." I rather imagine there are many women who have numbers of pots that are in bloom, and a few flowers picked here and there would not be missed. Even if they are -- when you are having a party and you really want your rooms to look nice, why not cut some of your violets?

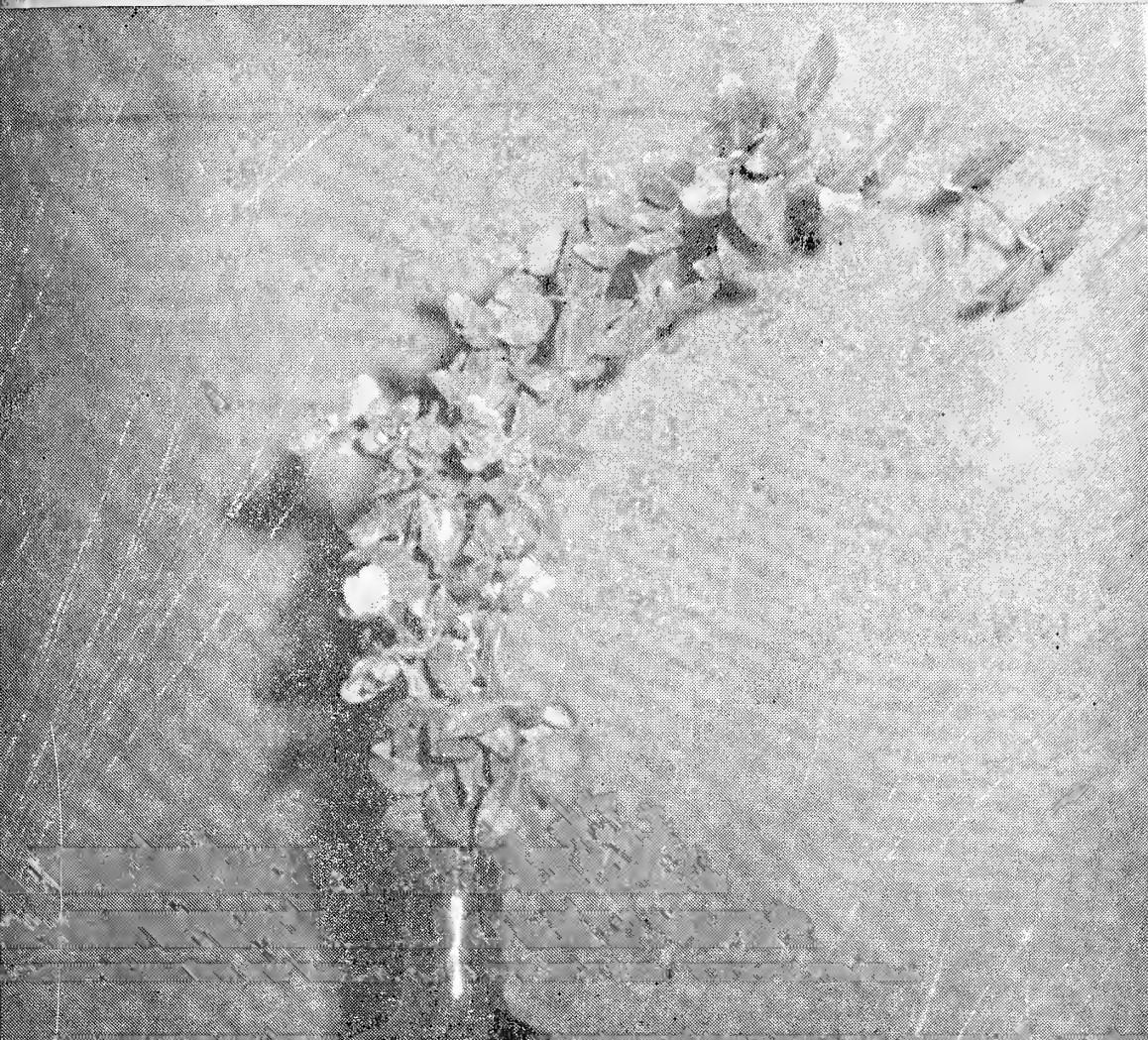
Why should African Violet Flower Shows not have some cut flower arrangement classes? It is not necessary to have only the entire plant arranged, although they also can be very decorative. I have been experimenting with cut African violets, and their flowers last a week in fresh water. These arrangements have been a great pleasure to many friends.

First, I cut off the flowers and with the faces down on waxed paper, carefully brush the backs of each petal where they touch the calix, with

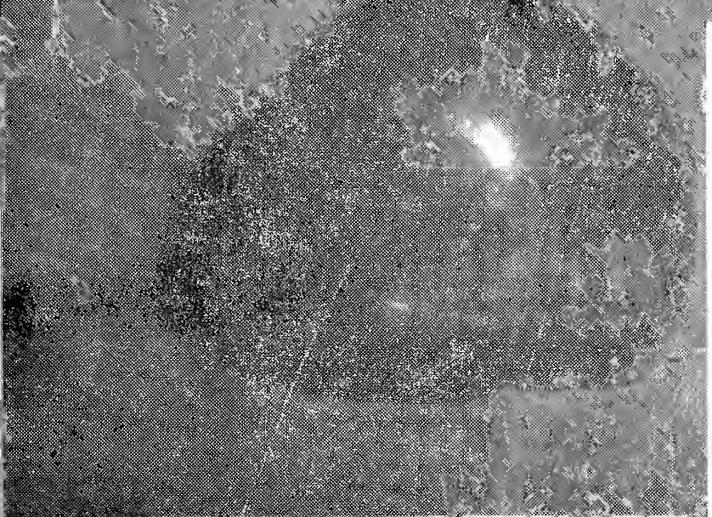
egg white and water -- about half and half. The egg white should not be beaten but just mixed with the water by stirring. The egg white can be applied with a little cotton on a toothpick or a tiny brush; a cleaned nail polish brush will do. In a short time the blossoms will be dry and there is no need to worry about petals falling off. Need I caution exhibitors that this egg white must not show? Of course it would not be applied to flowers in specimen classes.

To make an arrangement of any size will require the use of some mechanics. Probably the best is some type of glass or plastic tube. It should be small and should hold water. Florists usually have some plastic tubes called aqua-pics. The small glass tubes used by dentists and then discarded can often be obtained. Of course you could use the small test tubes from your son's chemical set; that is, if he will allow you to.

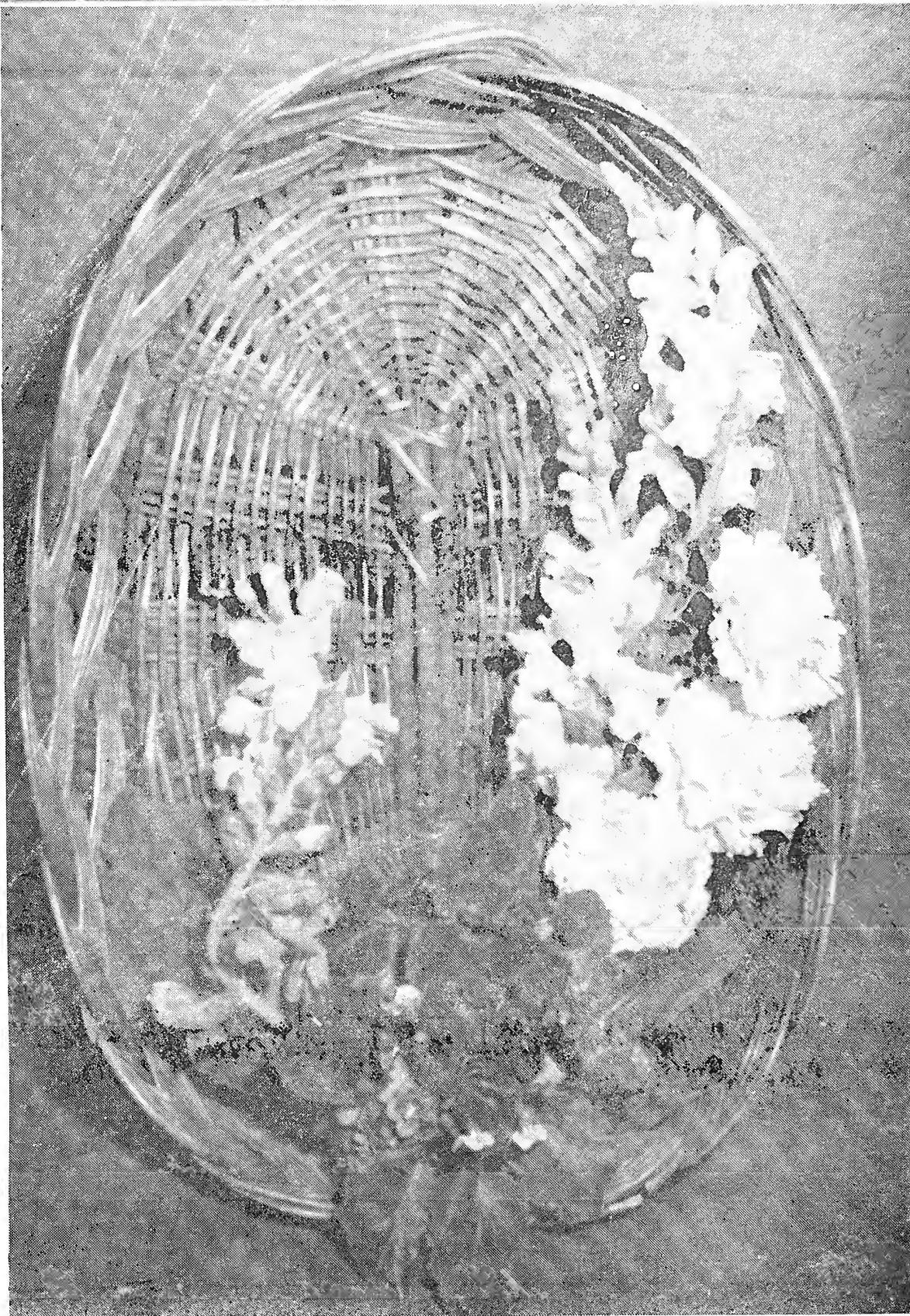
To make tubes stand upright, the ends can be pushed into a mound of modeling clay or a piece of star-foam. This part of the mechanics can be



Green bottle with branch of euonymous. Will grow all winter. Add violet blossoms for interest.



Aluminum foil encloses roots of pink African violets, used with pink snapdragon and carnations. An old wicker basket used as a background.

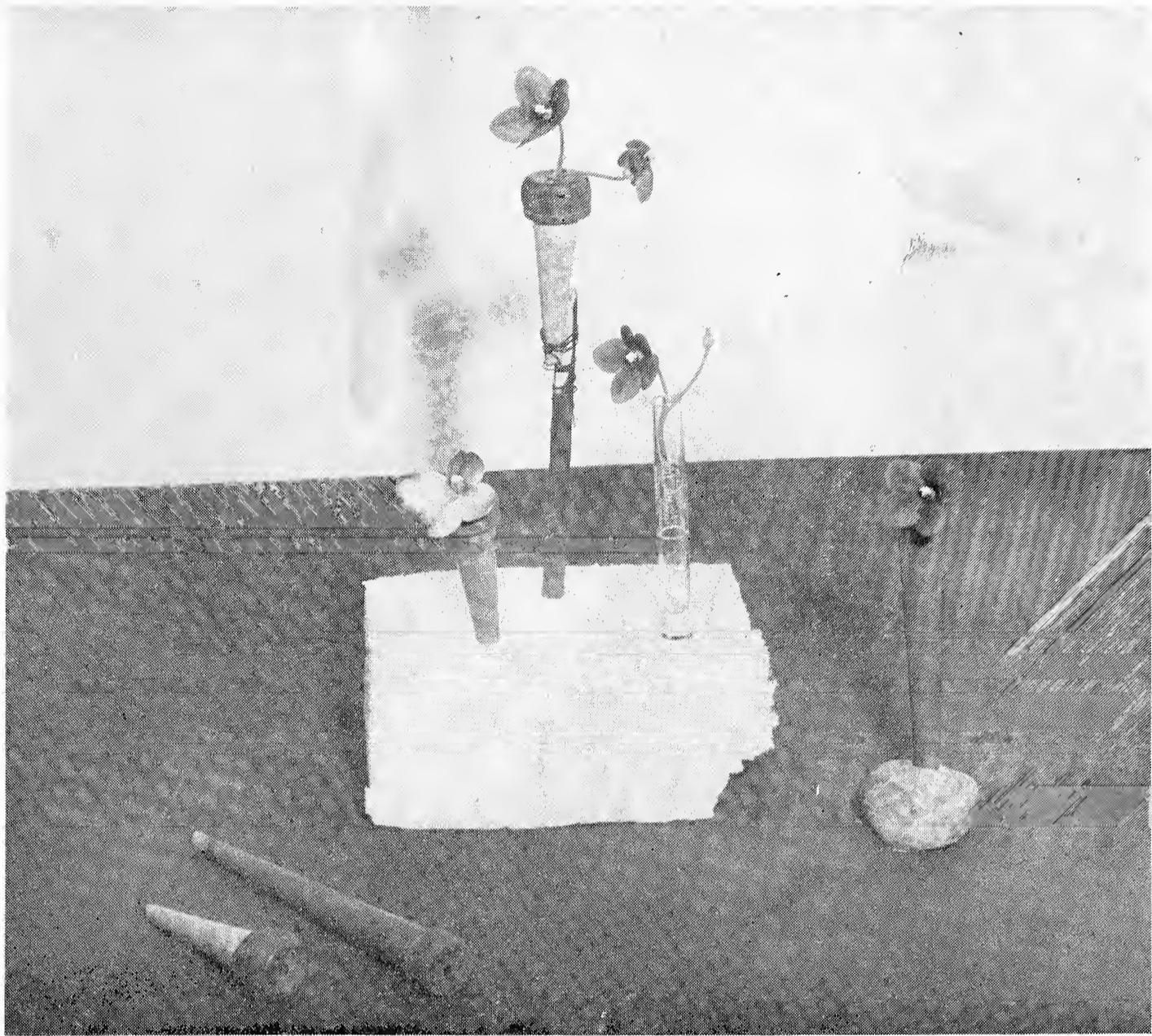




Pink and blue madonna and
pink roses with silvered
wooden roses. Aluminum foil
enclosed roots of a lavender
violet plant.

Cup and saucer arrangement
with lamb's ear, pussy willow
and violets.





Several ways of holding the flowers in the arrangement.

covered with a leaf or two. If you want some of your violets a little higher in the arrangement, they can be fastened to a thin stem from the garden; if this happens to show it will look like a branch. The stem can be attached to the side of the tube with a piece of fine wire or scotch tape. This stem is then pushed into the modeling clay. In any arrangement one or many more tubes can be used to hold your violets. This depends on how large the arrangement is to be. As violets will more likely be the center of interest in the arrangement, the background will probably be made of foliage or branches.

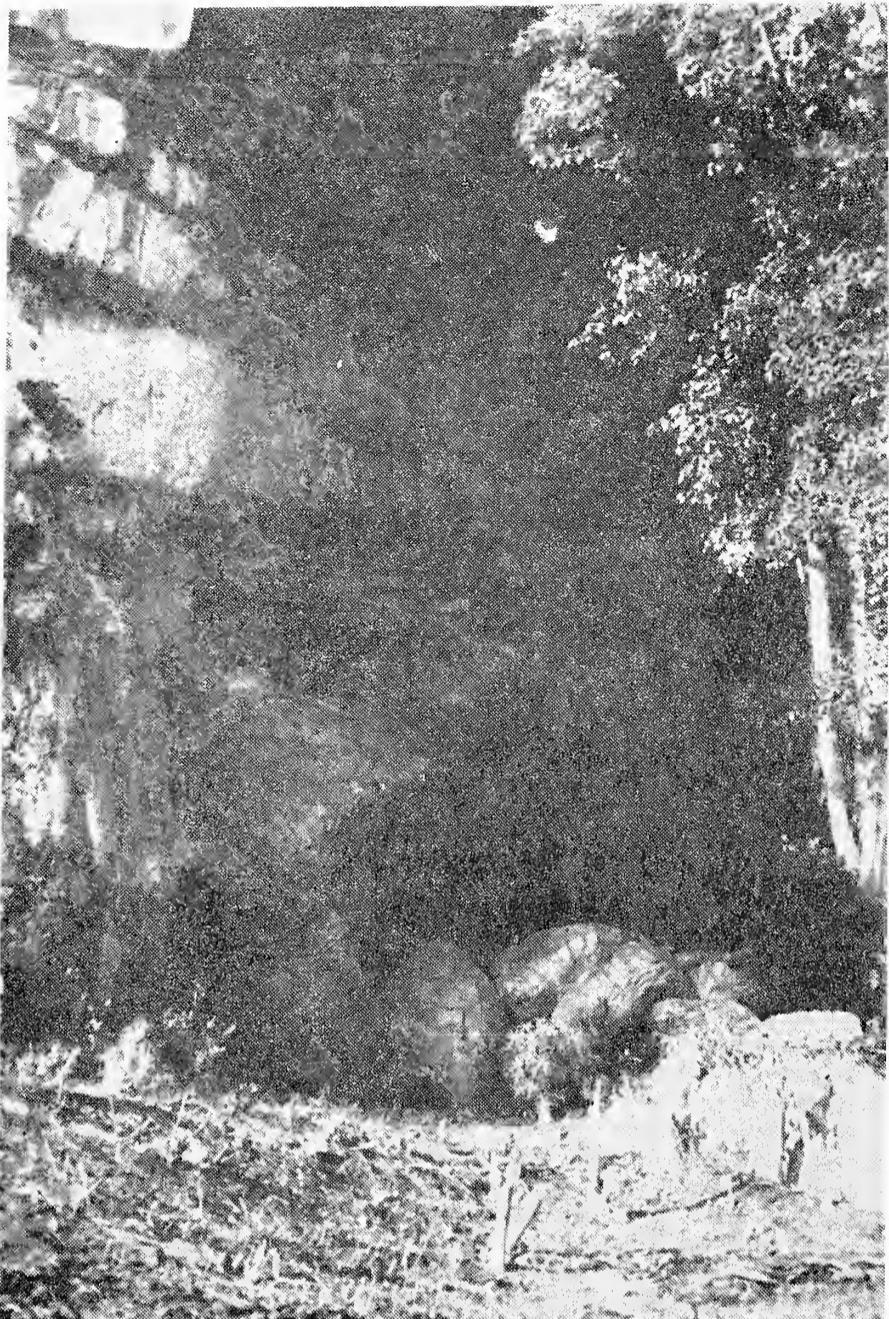
A well-designed arrangement generally has two forms: a spike form which would consist of tall leaves or branches, and a round form which might be a group of violets. In choosing other plant materials to blend with violets, it is well to think of the types that have a similar texture. Many of the begonia leaves look well with violets, the gray of the lamb's ear (*stachys lanata*) is lovely with the daintiness of the violets. In the early spring, pussy willow or the forced branches of forsythia can be used. At the time of year when small roses are available, pink roses and purple violets make a beautiful combination. Some rose buds can be used for height, then half open ones and a group of violets with the rose foliage for the center of the bouquet.

At African Violet Flower Shows I am sure there would be a great deal of interest in arrangement classes. These arrangements look best in niches. If niches cannot be provided, an alternative would be to use a long strip of corrugated paper, painted a soft green, extending down the middle of the table. Then arrangements can be placed on either side of the corrugated paper which makes a good substitute for a niche.

In preparing a schedule for arrangement classes, some suggestions for titles might bring out interesting exhibits: "Lavender and Old Lace," "A Miniature Arrangement Under Six Inches," "A Small Arrangement Under Twelve Inches," "In a Jewel Box," "Roses are Red and Violets are Blue." These will probably suggest many more ideas for schedule making. Even though you have gotten a great deal of pleasure out of your African violet plants, I am sure you will have a lot of fun and get many, many comments if you cut your flowers and use them in arrangements.

THE END

(Mrs. Stuebing is available for lectures on table settings, flower arrangements and decorations. Her address is 75 Vernon Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. -- Editor)



TANGA PROVINCE --

Home of the Saintpaulia

Mrs. P. D. Barker, P. O. Box 89, Tanga
Tanganyika Territory, East Africa

Entrance to the Sigi Caves five miles inside Tanga, Tanganyika Territory, East Africa, the home of *Saintpaulia ionantha*. The rock on the left near the tree was covered in violets.

It was of great interest to me to learn of the tremendous popularity of the *Saintpaulia* in America. A friend lent me a copy of the African Violet Magazine dated September, 1949, and after studying this I wrote to your editor to learn more of the Society. I have now received two most beautiful copies of the Magazine, dated September and December, 1953, and have become a member of the Society myself.

As I live in the heart of the country in which African violets are indigenous, and also grow them myself, I thought it might be of interest to your magazine to receive one or two articles describing the country in which the *Saintpaulia*, or Usambara Violet, as it is known locally, grows.

Tanga, where I live, is the chief town in Tanga Province, the home of the *Saintpaulia*. It is also a seaport and is situated on the East Coast of Africa. This province covers an area of 13,800 square miles and has considerable variations in climate and conditions. Tanga itself, being situated on the coast, is fully tropical in climate and is both hot and very humid. There

is no change of season such as spring, summer, autumn and winter as in Europe and the U. S. A. Our only changes are between the dry and the rainy season or, as they are more commonly called, the hot and the cool season. The former lasts from October to mid-April when the rains break and they generally last until the end of May. June to September is the cool season and very pleasant it is too. The flora at the coast is fully tropical: coconut trees and sisal do well and in our gardens we go in mostly for flowering shrubs, flowers being very difficult and often impossible to grow.

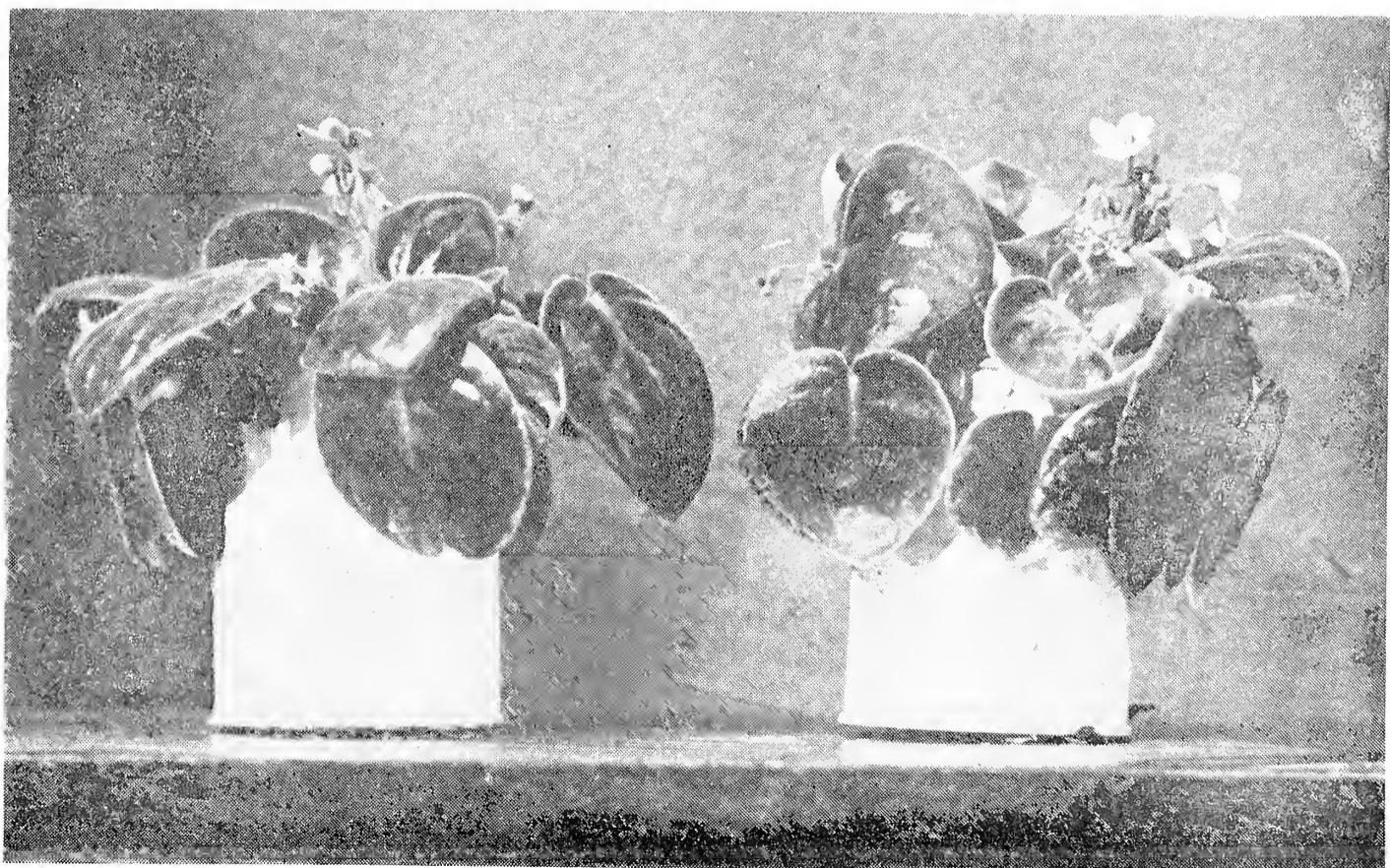
Although the temperature in the hot season does not often rise above ninety degrees Fahrenheit, the humidity reaches as much as ninety-eight per cent. Throughout the year there is constant brilliant sunshine except actually during the rains.

About one hundred miles inland stretch the Usambara Mountains which rise to nine thousand feet. Here the climate is semi-tropical but it can, during the rainy and cool season, be very cold

and fires are a necessity. On the other hand, frost is rarely found at under eight thousand feet in East Africa. The country here is beautiful with mountains, forests and rivers and it is always green. It is also possible to grow almost every kind of flower and tree and the gardens are lovely.

In various parts of these mountains which are a range about eighty miles in length, grow many varieties of Saintpaulias; hence the local name of Usambara Violet. In fact these varieties are found mostly in deep forest country off the beaten track, but they are found from as low down as fifty feet above sea-level up to six thousand five hundred feet in the higher Usambara Mountains. One variety only, Saintpaulia Sp. Coll P. O. Bally, is found in Kenya near the coast.

Right — In this picture you may see Saintpaulia ionantha growing on the rocks of the cave entrance. Several plants were growing here but it was dark and therefore difficult to photograph them. The photograph was taken just at the entrance to the Sigi Cave.



Two of my Saintpaulias grown from seed. Unfortunately they had almost finished flowering when I took this picture.



Limestone Rock formation near the entrance to the Sigi Caves and in the valley of the Mkulumuzi River.

Named after Walter von Saint-Paul Illaire who was the first Commissioner in Tanga under the Germans, the nearest place where Saintpaulias grow is not five miles out and only fifty feet above sea level at the Sigi Caves. This is *Saintpaulia ionantha*, the most common variety and the one that is advertised in seed catalogues in England. In the picture enclosed *Saintpaulia ionantha* can be seen growing on the rocks outside the caves. The crevices in which the tiny plants are nesting are very small and there would appear to be no soil there at all. It is difficult to imagine on what the plant exists and where it obtains nourishment. *Ionantha* do not seem to grow on all the rocks but only on certain ones and are not found on the ledges where other plants and vegetation are seen to be growing in the other pictures.

This is a very hot valley with curious high rock formations on either side of the River Mkulumuzi which runs between. The Sigi Caves were known in German times but I understand

that neither then nor since has the extent of the caves been discovered. They are very bare and dark inside and have not been developed in any way. Throughout the length of this valley we only found *Saintpaulias* growing on a few rocks and always in the shade. The rock with the greatest number of plants growing on it lies just at the entrance to the caves. *Saintpaulias* are protected by law in most parts of the Province.

In all there are twelve known varieties of *Saintpaulias* in East Africa, specimens of nine of which can be seen at the East African Herbarium in Nairobi. All are blue and single, though they vary from light blue to dark. (Personally I would call them lavender to purple but they are officially said to be blue.) Nine of these species are well known in Tanga Province. They are:

S. ionantha found at the Sigi Caves fifty feet above sea-level.

S. amaniensis found at Amani, 3,000 feet.

S. diplotricha found at the Sigi River at 3,000 feet and also on Mount Mlinga at 1,000 to 3,000 feet.

S. grotei found at Bulwa and Derema two miles from Amani, 3,000 feet.

S. tongwensis found at Mount Tongwe, 3,000 feet.

S. magungensis found at Mount Mlinga and at Magunga, 3,000 feet.

S. Sp. Greenway 7551, found at Ubiri Mgambo, 3,500 feet.

S. Sp. Greenway 5974, found at Ubiri Mgambo, 3,500 feet.

S. Sp. Greenway 7934, found at Shume, 6,500 feet.

The remaining three specimens are rare and there are so far none of them in the East African Herbarium. They are: *S. goetzeana*, *S. pusilla* and *S. orbicularis*. I do not know the habitat of these, and have so far not found any. They do, however, grow in this Province only.

I should be glad if you would inform your members should any of them be coming to East Africa and particularly to Tanga I should be delighted to show them the *Saintpaulia ionantha* growing indigenously. This would be an easy and inexpensive expedition lasting as short a time as two hours if necessary. Expeditions into the mountains where the other varieties grow is a more complicated affair and would take some days. Tanga is a seaport and about five ships call here from the U. S. A. per month and it might so happen that African violet enthusiasts might find themselves passing this way, in which case I should be only too pleased to meet them. Some ships stay only a few hours, others some days.

THE END

Seedlings Are Such Fun

Clem Browning, Flemingsburg, Ky.

If you have never grown a batch of Saintpaulias from seed, do treat yourself to this fascinating experience. I think it is the most fun one could have in the violet world.

Look over your plants and select two likely parents, or sets of parents, choosing one for color, perhaps, and the other for foliage. Transfer the pollen from one to the stigma of the other, tying on a thread so you won't jerk off the stalk when the flowers fall. Better make a note too, for it's interesting to know what you have crossed when planting time comes. It may be three months or nine before a pod matures and dries, and make sure it is dry. Sow the seed according to the simple and excellent directions in past copies of the Magazine or in any one of the several fine books on African violets, which also describe their subsequent care.

In a couple of weeks, when the tiny pin-pricks of green begin to appear, the fun will start. At first so minute, they will presently grow faster; it is possible to have bloom as quickly from a seedling as from a leaf-grown plant. Some of mine have flowered in six months.

My very first cross was Pink Beauty on West Coast Amethyst which resulted in some one hundred plants divided amongst blues, orchids and delicate pastels -- no pinks. Neither parent was reproduced exactly and some of the offspring resembled neither, just as may happen in the human family.

Selecting the prettiest blue from the group, I crossed it with Pink Girl; this time some very

pretty pinks resulted, as well as blues and orchids, many of which were superior to the first group. About half had Girl-type foliage. The best of these have now been crossed with each other or back on one of the parents, and so the generations go on. You may go into this matter as scientifically as you wish, delving into the laws of heredity, and so charting your course, but the plants will grow regardless.

Looking for family resemblances in seedlings is as diverting as trying to decide whom the new baby favors -- Aunt Lizzie or Uncle Bill or Grandpa Brown. It is amazing, the variety of types coming from a single pod. It will pull you out of bed early each morning to run and see what new bloom has opened in the night.

Then arrives that necessary, though painful, time of discarding. But like giving away the kittens you can find a kind home for the undistinguished and keep any which display promise. Keep them a year. Seedlings have a way of evolving which may bring surprises. Some, like precious children, fail to fulfil early promise, but other ugly ducklings may, with maturity, develop interesting personalities. That familiar phrase, "glamorous and unpredictable," seems so well to describe our Saintpaulias.

Of course we amateurs needn't expect to produce a sensation, but some day when a visitor asks with admiration "And what is that?" you reply carelessly "Oh just a seedling," but inwardly you'll glow with pride.

THE END

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HISTORY OF SAINTPAULIA *

PART III THE NAMING OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET AND ITS START TOWARD COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION

Evan Roberts, East Lansing, Michigan

African violets were discovered in East Africa by Walter von Saint Paul in the year 1892. He sent them to his father, Ulrich, in Fischbach, Germany, during the same year. Ulrich von Saint Paul gave specimens to his friend, a well known botanist, Hermann Wendland of Herrenhausen with perhaps two ideas in mind. The first was to identify and name the plants; the second was to ask Mr. Wendland to make arrangements for the commercial distribution of the African violet. Who was Mr. Wendland?

Hermann Wendland was born in Herrenhausen, Germany, in October, 1823. His father was the director of the Botanic Gardens at Herrenhausen and Herman received much of his early training from him. Leaving home to further increase his knowledge of plants, he studied under the direction of Professor Bartling in the Botanic Gardens at Gottingen and Dr. Schonbrunn. From his studies in Germany he proceeded to Kew Botanic Gardens in England. There he was employed as a gardener for two years and left in 1849 to return to Herrenhausen. After working as an assistant he was appointed Director in 1870 after the death of his father.

Like both of the Saint Pauls, Mr. Wendland was interested in travel and plants. He was sent on a botanical expedition into Guatemala and Central America in 1857. There he collected many new and interesting plants and introduced many by means of seeds after distributing them from Herrenhausen.

One of our present day, long lasting, cut flowers, *Anthurium Scherzerianum*, flamingo flower, was discovered in Costa Rica and later described by him. His specialty was a collection of palms and he soon became the outstanding authority on these plants.

Like Ulrich Saint Paul, Hermann Wendland formed a large collection of orchids which at the time were outstanding in the large number of botanical species. He visited Kew Gardens in England each year and endeared himself to the officials with his knowledge of tropical plants and their cultural requirements as well as his readiness to impart his knowledge to others.

He attended the Ghent Quinquennial Exhibition, held on April 16th to the 23rd in 1893. This was a horticultural show of great im-

portance to European horticulturists and was well attended by prominent horticulturists from England, Germany, France and other countries. There can be little doubt, this was one of the most important of its kind as may be noted by consulting the leading European magazines of the period. There were a large number of classes and, as a rule, there were many entries in each class. One exception to this, however, was a special class for "six plants with or without flower, of recent introduction, and not yet in commerce." "Particular care was taken to select a competent, international, independent jury; and so it came about that, to judge twelve plants, seven judges were appointed!" Mr. Wendland was among the judges and it may be because of this he did not enter the African violet in competition but chose instead to exhibit it as a botanical specimen in the exhibition. It shared with another kind of plant, *Eulophiella*, the honor of being the most botanically interesting plant in the exhibition. After returning to his home, Mr. Wendland prepared his botanical description of *Saintpaulia ionantha*, the African violet, which was published in June 1893. His description of *Saintpaulia ionantha* is very precise and with much detail. He did not apply the name of *Saintpaulia ionantha* to two species as later writers have indicated. His description is accurate and is well illustrated. It can be found in the German magazine, "Gartenflora," June 10, 1893. In his original description he mentions that ownership rights belong to the firm Ernst Benary of Erfurt, Germany. African violet enthusiasts might well agree with Hermann Wendland who was among the first to note the beauty of the African violet when he wrote, "Because of its enhancing beauty I will call this plant one of the daintiest hot house plants which has been introduced in the last years."

Hermann Wendland died on the twelfth of January, 1903, while Director of the famous Royal Gardens at Herrenhausen (Hanover), Germany. He stands out conspicuously as an individual who accomplished much in the fields of both botany and horticulture.

*Continued from the African Violet Magazine, Vol. 7, No. 2, December 1953.

(To be continued)



THE LATE HERMANN WENDLAND



Col. Pullen at entrance to garage where African violets now are "parked."



A close up of one of the attractive violet benches.

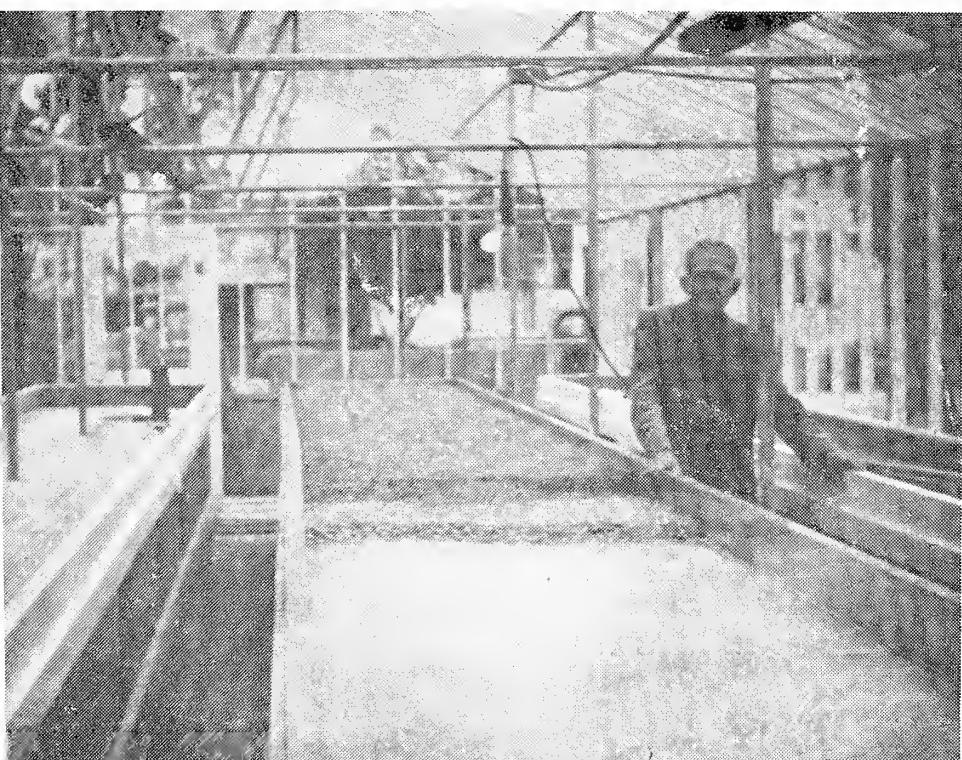
Research Put To Practical Use

Henry C. Peterson, Cincinnati, Ohio

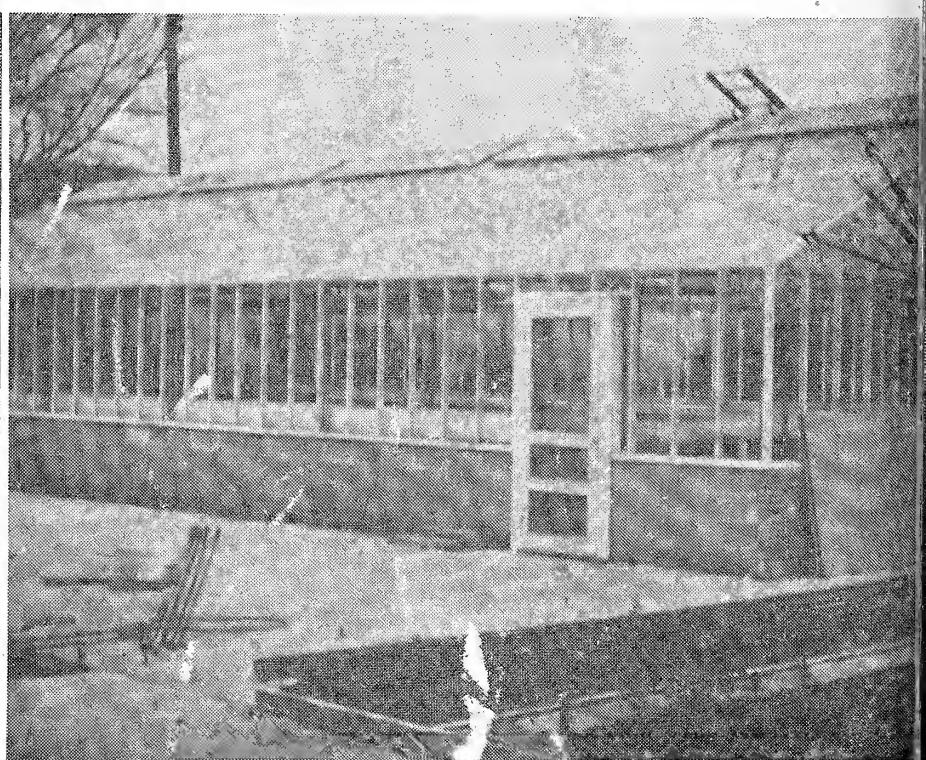
In Houma, Louisiana, Col. Joe A. Pullen is trying out some of the African Violet Research results on a commercial scale. Friendship with Professor Howard Hanchy of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, developed into a desire to test Dr. Hanchy's suggestion to use six hundred foot-candles of light for eighteen hours a day. (See African Violet Magazine, Vol. 5, No. 4.) Col. Pullen has taken over the garage area of a neighbor's home, an area about twenty-five by thirty feet. There are six benches with lights over each, holding about eight thousand plants. In the first six weeks the results were

amazing. Small plantlets from the propagating bench grew into heavy two and one-fourth inch plants well set with buds. Picture on next page gives an idea of the difference in growth, plant on the right grown in a glassed-in porch area. Plant on the left under the lights.

If you are in the New Orleans area, it would be well worth your time to take a short fifty-five mile trip southwest to Houma, Louisiana, to 401 Sunset Avenue. Col. Pullen is also erecting a fair sized greenhouse and laboratory. While this setup is on a commercial scale in size, the plan is to operate as a research laboratory.



Inside view of the experimental greenhouse and Col. Pullen.



Outside view of the new experimental greenhouses.



Note the difference in size. The small plant was grown in natural light on the glassed in porch while the larger specimen was grown in the plant benches under fluorescent lights.

ORCHIDS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, HOUSE PLANTS

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"African Violet Fairyland"

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Van Heuklon, of Appleton, Wisconsin, have named their place "African Violet Fairyland," from comments of visitors who would exclaim upon entering the violet room at their home 527 Badger Avenue, "Why this is a wonderland" or, "This is a fairyland." The Van Heuklons have a collection of about three thousand in two hundred and fifty different varieties.

It all started about two and a half years ago when Mrs. Van Heuklon began collecting some of the lovely new varieties being released by growers. Selected were varieties such as the Rainbow Series, Lacy Girl, Sailors Delight, Double Sea Girl, Queen Neptune and so forth. Soon the "bug" bit Mr. Van Heuklon. He began to fix up the basement and partitioned half of it off for the African violets as they were just about taking over the whole house upstairs. He built stands

for the plants -- each stand being three tiers high and equipped with fluorescent lights. After building eight stands the basement was as full of violets as the upstairs.

About this time the Van Heuklons decided to build a new house with a larger basement especially designed for the growing of African violets. So in June, 1953 they moved into their new home which has a huge room downstairs equipped with nineteen stands carrying fifty-seven fluorescent light fixtures -- all wired to a time clock that cuts them off and on automatically.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Heuklon spend many happy hours caring for and grooming their plants. Both are National members and they feel that they are rewarded many times for their efforts by their beautiful display of African violets.

THE END

Mr. and Mrs. Van Heuklon and their new plant room.



African Violets Are Not "Softies"

Mrs. John H. Adair, Sioux City, Iowa

On January 20, 1954, I had the misfortune of the furnace failing to operate on a night when the temperature plunged to seventeen degrees below zero! The thermostat thermometer in the dining room registered forty, which is as low as it can go, and it seemed even colder. And, of course, in the windows, where I have many of my plants, it was several degrees under that. When I rushed downstairs at 7 o'clock in the morning, my first thought was not of frozen pipes, but of frozen African violets, of which I have some two hundred and fifty plants in south and north windows and under fluorescent lights in the basement. The first thing to catch my eye was a fairly large plant of Innocence in one of the south windows which was quite frozen, so I immediately set all the plants on tables back from the windows. Then I got busy telephoning for service, and it was another hour and a half before my burner was operating. It was still sixteen degrees below zero, so as a result it was noon before the thermometer was up to seventy, and then I began going over my plants to see what damage had been done.

And it was so surprisingly little, that I thought others who are intrigued with this charming house plant might like to know the results.

My large plants, which I have in the basement under lights, suffered not at all. I suppose this can be attributed to the fact, to some extent,

that it may not have gotten quite so cold there. Those plants were all in full bloom, and have gone right on blooming, with no damage to the leaves at all. In the south windows in my dining room, the only plant which was a complete loss was the Innocence of which I spoke before. Another white, White Girl, was quite badly nipped, but the crown of the plant was not damaged; so although it is reduced in size, I believe it will live. A small plant of Orchid Sunset has taken on the appearance of a variegated plant; that is, the leaves look quite normal, except they are partly white but do not have the damaged appearance of a frost-bitten leaf. I would be happy if it would remain a variegated plant for it is very pretty; however, as the new leaves come out, it will no doubt go back to its original color. It will be interesting to watch at any rate. But I do not recommend such "shock" treatment to obtain a variegated plant.

The plants in my north windows came through without a blemish. And other than a few bottom leaves which turned black on perhaps a dozen other plants, that was the extent of the damage. I wish you could see my plants as they were in one of the south windows after the temperature drop. They have kept right on blooming and I have come to the conclusion that African violets aren't the "softies" we always thought they were.

THE END

PREVENT petiole rot with ProtectoTape*

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See page 73, March issue, for detailed description of ProtectoTape, how it was discovered, how it works.



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My Green Thumb Came Naturally

Rose M. Donnelly, Chicago, Ill.

Gardening runs in my family. On my mother's side, my grandfather and great-grandfather were both gardeners, taking care of large estates for the people who lived on the "other side of the tracks" in the small town where we grew up. On my father's side, my great-grandfather was the manager of a vast vineyard in Hungary which produced wine for the tables of the nobility. My father's mother realized her dream of a place in the country where she could garden to her heart's content after many hard years of raising her family of four all alone. She spent the last ten years of her life on a little place in Indiana, manipulating a garden the size of which would put an able-bodied man to shame. She lived to the grand old age of seventy-nine. We always managed to visit her frequently in the summer and brought home all sorts of plants, bushes and even trees to stock our tiny city plots . . . by "we" I mean my mother, brother and myself. My own back yard is only about 40 by 40 feet, but it contains a nice birch tree (which Grandma said would never grow in the city), some lilac bushes, strawberry and asparagus beds, and a flower border that has flourished to the extent that I have been able to keep the neighborhood supplied with "starts."

My acquaintance with African violets began with the few magazine articles I came across (and there were very few) during my clipping sprees. I am a magazine clipper of the first order, saving every article of interest on indoor and outdoor gardening, handicraft, sewing, etc., which have accumulated to quite a degree in my twelve years of married life. Now, after twelve years and four children, two of each, I am getting the African violet "bug" in earnest. Last spring, one of my favorite magazines ran an ad with an introductory offer to the Garden Book Club. The two books I chose were Montague Free's "All About African Violets" and "All About House Plants." May I say here and now that Mr. Free may not be aware of it, but he is directly responsible for opening the doors to me to the vagaries of growing African violets. His books have become my "Bibles" and have been read from cover to cover more than three times over.

My mother, who lives in Chicago, and my grandmother (on my mother's side), who lives in Michigan, have been growing African violets for quite a while longer than myself. My talents with house plants ran to the commonplace ones such as Begonias, Philodendron, Ivies and a Christmas Cactus. I must admit that I outshined my mother with the Christmas Cactus because

it has bloomed for me each year for the past four years and hers had hung its head in shame. Anyway, my mother and grandmother were instrumental in giving me a push into my new hobby. Last Mother's Day, with a few well-directed hints to the family, I became the happy owner of two lovely violets, Lady Geneva and Painted Girl. My mother parted company with a fine plant of Double Blue Boy and I was on my way.

In August, we piled our family into the car and took a trip to Michigan. On the way, we spotted a greenhouse offering African violets for sale, but it was on the left hand side of the highway and my husband couldn't stop in time, so I made a mental note to watch for it on the return trip. When we arrived at my grandmother's house, she and I talked about African violets for the major part of our visit. I had come prepared with a good supply of two inch pots and conducted a raid on her violet collection. She was very generous, and I ended up with two or three leaves of each of ten different plants. I had also come prepared to haul home a supply of Michigan soil (backyard soil in Chicago is just so much dirt) and we found a woods nearby where we dug out a bushel of that marvelous leaf mold. Then we filled another bushel, half with sand dug from my grandfather's underground cellar, and half with virgin soil from along the fence outside his poultry yard. On the way home, we kept our eyes peeled for that greenhouse and I nearly went out of my mind when I saw the marvelous collection of violets. After purchasing a plant of Redhead (which was in full bloom in a thimble-sized pot!) and also a Scarlet Flame, I could hardly wait until we got home to get my hands into that Michigan soil.

The next day I spent out in the garage. I sifted the leafmold, sand and soil through a half-inch screen right onto the floor and mixed it thoroughly, adding a coffee can full of bone meal for good measure. My conscience is bothering me a little now for not sterilizing the soil, but my grandmother's plants have never had any insects so I felt reasonably safe. Time will tell, I suppose, but I have a can of spray on hand just in case. I repotted all my house plants and my few African violets in this mixture and they are thriving as they never did before.

I racked my brain to try to come up with some way to keep my leaf cuttings in an ideal situation so I could be sure of increasing my holdings. Again, I am grateful to Montague Free, because I remembered reading about his

propagating case in "All About House Plants." I had some seed flats my brother had made for me out of cedar wood, so I painted two of them pale yellow on the outside so they wouldn't degrade the appearance of my picture window in the living room. This window, incidentally, faces east and is seven feet long and twenty inches deep, an ideal spot for African violets.) While the paint was drying, I measured the flats for glass and took a trip to the hardware store, where I described my needs to the confused high school boy who works there after school. He cut the glass the way I wanted it and I had four sides and a top for each seed flat. I taped the glass together inside the flats to form a box and reinforced the corners with Mortite, a putty-like compound. Since the flats had holes in the bottom, (I had used them to start tomato plants for my garden), I lined them with clear plastic because I wanted to put a layer of peat moss in the bottom and set the potted leaf cuttings on it. By keeping the peat moss damp, there is a plentiful supply of moisture in my "greenhouses." The cuttings are thriving, and as of this writing, eight of the leaves have healthy plantlets growing from the end of the cutting,

but it has also formed two plantlets at the base of the leaf above ground! My neighbor made a very cutting remark about my greenhouses, saying that they looked like a cemetery. I have a white label sticking out of each pot with the name of the leaf and the date when I potted it. I have to admit they do look like tombstones, but I would never admit it to him.

In September, I raided my mother's collection and came home with some leaves and offshoots from eight more violets, so I now have a pretty good selection.

In October, I joined the African Violet Society and was so thrilled with the African Violet Magazine. My eyes have been opened in amazement at the extent of the Society and also the extent of the equipment offered by the advertisers. It makes me realize what an amateur I really am, but I don't care, my green thumb came naturally and I'm going to stick with it and maybe some day I'll have a plant I can bring to the Convention and be proud to say, "I grew it myself."

THE END



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Sterilizing Soil

Catherine B. Shepherd, Arlington, Virginia

The object of soil sterilization is to eliminate all harmful organisms, and also to reduce to a minimum the production of harmful substances.

The following should be kept in mind: Heat the soil as rapidly as possible to temperature needed.

Maintain this temperature no longer than is necessary.

Add fertilizers to sterilized soil to make good the natural deficiencies following sterilization. A temperature of one hundred and eighty degrees Fahrenheit maintained for ten minutes is sufficient, but sometimes has to be modified according to the method used. Steam sterilization, through experiments, seems to be the most favored method.

The whole consequences of heating soil is very complex, but it is clear that the total amount of available nitrogenous compounds is increased as the temperature is raised, and at a certain point, these extra amounts may have harmful effects on seeds and seedling growths.

The Commercial growers are equipped for large scale sterilization and have an advantage over the small amateur grower. Basically there are three ways open to the amateur. Low pressure steaming, chemicals and baking. Whichever method is used it is essential the soil be friable and free from lumps, which form pockets where steam nor chemical can reach, and infection can be spread from these pockets.

Another important thing if using peat moss is to mix the peat moss in separately afterwards, as toxic properties are produced which cause root injuries to seedling growth, in the soil later.

Cleanliness is paramount. All utensils should be washed with a sterilizing solution. It hardly seems worth while to sterilize the soil, then contaminate by not using sterilized utensils.

The average home grower needs small quantities of soil. I use a tall round pan that has a lid. It stands about seven inches high and is about eleven inches across. Inside is a rack that stands one and one-half inches from the bottom. I made two sacks out of a sack sand came in, and I put about one-fourth bushel of soil in each of these bags. Then almost one and one-half inches of water goes into the pan, and is brought to a boil. Then a bag of soil, which is tied at top, loose enough for a thermometer to go through, is placed on the rack and the lid put on. These bags fill the pan nicely. As soon as the temperature reaches one hundred and eighty degrees I turn the gas down and let it steam for twenty minutes. I have tested all through

this time and the temperature has never reached two hundred degrees. I then remove the bag of soil, add more water and repeat the process with the other bag. Then I spread the first bag to dry. The soil, when put in to steam should be almost dry, otherwise the steam may condense in the soil, and turn it into a soggy consistency, and will not heat up. Every particle of soil should be reached with a temperature of one hundred and eighty degrees and no higher than two hundred degrees. The ultimate end is the same no matter what method is used.

When heated, the soil is changed biologically, chemically and physically. The total amounts of nitrogenous potassium and phosphatic compounds available is increased, and heated soil is richer as a source of nutrients. A soil that is sterile is devoid of life and useless for growing plants, so guard against over-sterilizing.

The nitrogenous compounds when decomposed by heat, yield ammonia which is found in considerable amounts in sterilized soil. As the temperature is raised first one and then another organism is exterminated. Earthworms are killed at about one hundred and thirty degrees, one hundred and seventy degrees kills weed seeds, insects, any other plant life and most plant diseases, excepting some virus that need one hundred and ninety-four degrees.

Ammonifying bacteria can resist a temperature of two hundred and twelve degrees and therefore steam sterilized soil is rich in ammonia. These bacteria without competition, multiply rapidly and the ammonia content of soil increases at a rapid rate. An excess of soil ammonia retards seed germination and seedling growth.

Humus with lime when heated over one hundred and forty degrees sets free toxic humic compounds, and possibly manganese. These things together, with an excess of ammonia necessitates a period of three to six weeks between steaming and using the soil.

The addition of phosphate after sterilization is needed because phosphate is most essential to promote the growth of healthy seedlings. Lime too is added, first to have the correct Ph of soil and secondly superphosphate is most effective when lime is present.

For flats of soil or soil in pots, boiling water can be poured over the soil, completely drenching it. Then a cover is laid over to keep the heat in.

To those chemically inclined there are several products on the market today. If using Formaldehyde, dilute commercial formalin to two per cent approximately five tablespoonsful to one gallon of water. Formaldehyde is highly toxic

to plant life, and the treated soil should not be used until all vestige of gas has disappeared. It is better to work in the open with it. Here again the soil should be sieved to remove all lumps, and should be moist, neither very dry nor very wet. The treatment must be very thorough and every particle of soil drenched.

One of the earliest methods of soil sterilization was by baking. It didn't take long for experimenters to discover that sometimes baked soil had harmful effects on seed germination and growth. Heating is uneven and that close to flame gets more heat than other parts. There seems to be conflicting reports about the baking of soil. Some advise putting the soil in dry, others recommend it to be wet, so I am not qualified to say which is best. On the few occasions I have baked soil I put it in dry and baked it fifty minutes at one hundred and sixty degrees. But whichever method is used, always remember not to over-sterilize, as only partial sterilization is necessary.

THE END

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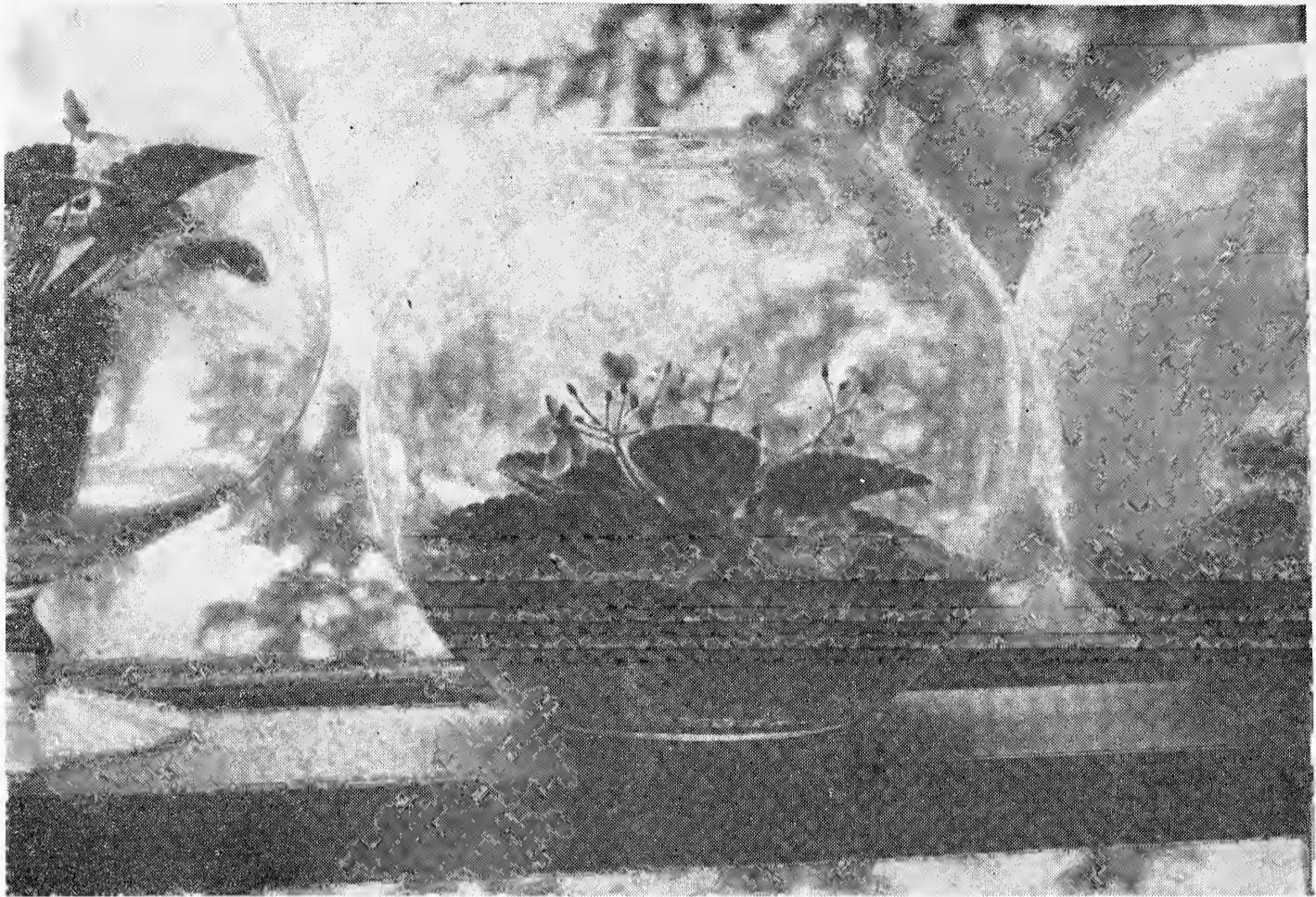
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Life In A Bubble Bowl

Shirley M. Heinsohn, Knoxville, Tenn.

How would YOU like to live in a bubble bowl? Don't think you'd go for that too much, huh? Well, you just don't know the HALF of it!

The first day my mistress moved me out of my nice, comfortable pot into this beautiful, glass bubble, I thought I would die. To begin with, all my new neighbors stared. They looked my new "house" over thoroughly, and me included, from the tip of my leaves to the bottom of my roots! Then there were all my mistress' visitors, inspecting me and my new habitat from morn till night, like I was some magnificent freak or something. I didn't have a minute's privacy. My next door neighbor, Blue Boy, was especially bad!

But after I began to get used to the idea, I realized my new house had its advantages, too! For instance, everyone who comes to see us violets notices me first, which is pretty good for the old ego. And pretty soon, I began to realize that I was a pretty special plant to be chosen to live here. On top of that, the service here equals the Waldorf -- lots of special attention, which any violet loves!

Now I want to tell you all about my wonderful abode, and my exciting move into same. First, my bubble bowl is a pretty large one, about ten or twelve inches across the middle,

and, as I said, quite spacious, for I am just a medium size plant -- not small or puny, you understand, but I'll certainly never be a giant like my other neighbor, Red King.

The day of my big move, or "transplanting," as my mistress says, the little woman washed and polished this bowl till it gleamed. Of course, I was just sitting on the kitchen sink wondering what it was all about. First she covered up the bottom of the bowl about a fourth or a fifth of the way up with sphagnum moss. But gosh, did she work on that moss first! She told me she was sterilizing, when she poured boiling water over the moss and let it stand about ten minutes. After that, she took a hand full of moss at a time and wrung all the water out of it, so that it was nice and dry. That's when she "lined" the bowl -- she scattered a nice, thin carpet of moss over the bottom of the bowl, just like I said before.

Then she took three or four pieces of charcoal one inch or so long and about one-fourth inch thick, and she put it on the moss. She told me that chicken charcoal would have been fine too, but that enough should be used to be effective.

Then came the soil. It was the same loose, porous variety that I was used to in my old pot,

but my mistress had added to it a small amount of Sponge Rok. For my fourteen-inch bowl, she had added about a half cup of the Sponge Rok. Then she took this soil mixture and added it over the moss, about a hand full at a time, in doughnut fashion in the bowl -- she left a hole in the center of the soil, where she later put me. The soil was just as deep as the ball of earth that I still held on to with my roots, when she took me out of my pot. Then she moved me into my new house.

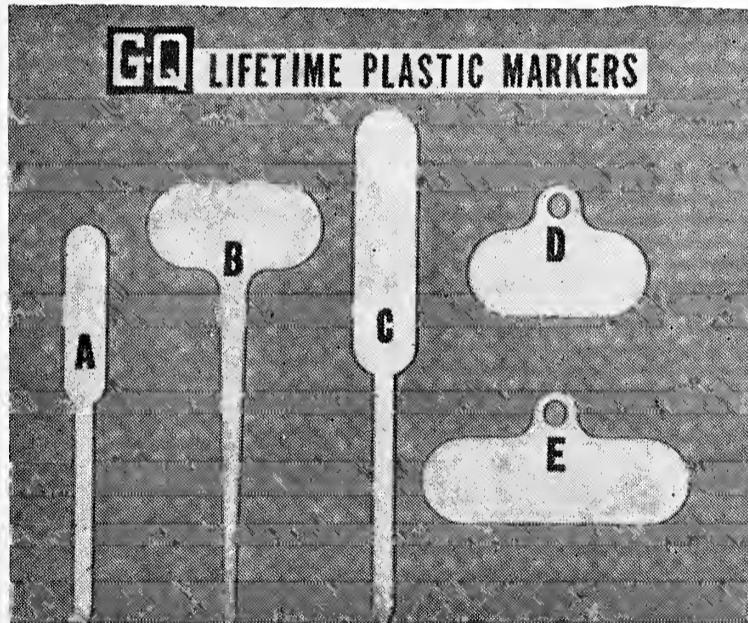
This was the part I had been dreading since I had guessed what she intended to do with me! But, much to my surprise, I didn't feel a thing. She was as gentle as could be, and I wasn't disturbed at all. She just sat me in the hole, with the soil all around me, and then to beautify me even more, she scattered a little more sphagnum moss around on top of the soil and me -- my roots, that is. This "dressed up" the bottom a little.

Now I am happy and secure in my bubble bowl. I am fed about one-half Plant Tab each month, which keeps me feeling fit as a Saint-paulia should. I get a drink of water about once a week. Now this process is a little different from my old easy wick-watering method. This

now is done personally by the gentle and loving hands of my mistress. Of course the humidity is held in around me and the water does not evaporate as readily, since there is no drainage -- although the charcoal does help a little. So my mistress tips my bubble bowl ever so slightly, and, with the tip of the watering spout, pours a little water on the moss between the edge of my leaves and the glass. I get only a little drink, because she says a little is far better than too much -- and who wants to be drowned to death? She experimented on me a little until she found just how much I needed, and she still checks me every week to be sure.

I must be growing quite satisfactorily, for now my mistress has several of my cousins living in the luxury of a bubble bowl. A little brighter sun doesn't bother me as much now. In fact, the only thing that might give me a rough time is to cover the bubble bowl. That would make me sweat and cause the sun to spot my leaves. All in all, I am now quite adjusted and very happy in my new home. And, oh, is my mistress proud of me! So if you want to give your plants and yourself an extra treat, get yourself a bubble bowl. It's quite a happy experience for both the plant and the little woman in charge.

THE END



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NATURES WAY

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

Remember the old axiom taught us in our grade school days, "If, at first, you don't succeed, try, try again?" I don't believe there is one that applies more aptly to African violet lovers than this one, I know it is true in my case, anyway.

I have had violet plants off and on, for perhaps twenty years, but, I never could keep them, and, I never knew why, until I began to come down with that all-consuming malady, African violet fever about five years ago, when the gardening magazines began carrying articles and advertisements of these beautiful plants, telling how easy they were to grow, and selling leaves and cuttings and giving information of all sorts.

Needless to say, visions of gorgeous plants in color fired my imagination to an all-time high and I could picture them blooming in my windows everywhere, so, I bought leaves, cuttings and plants, all sorts of paraphernalia, started everything going and sat back to wait patiently for something to happen. It did, but not the way I had it visioned. Instead of lovely green growth, I had ugly, blackened dead leaves and plants, and then, I would start all over again, and it happened this way again and again!

That fall, our Greater Akron African Violet Society was formed and I became a charter member, determined I was going to learn how to grow these beautiful plants successfully. We were all National members, so we all received the National Magazine, we discussed all ways and methods of growing plants, had speakers, were shown slides. I tried all sorts of hints, fertilizers, soils, sterilized, selenated, anything I thought would be of benefit in my determination to grow these plants successfully, and still, I lost them by the dozens.

When you are really violet fever ridden, you can't throw away leaves, and as my temperature mounted steadily I had to find more space for my babies, so I moved to the basement, where I have ninety-two square feet under fluorescent lights, but I still continued to lose many plants.

I was on the program committee for both my violet club and my garden club for 1953, and being a real dirt gardener who would rather have her hands in dirt than pie-dough, I wanted a speaker who was an authority on soils and fertilizers, and, on the recommendation of our garden columnist for our daily paper, was able to secure the services of the vice president of our county Organic Gardening Club, for mid-spring speaking dates.

For several months, I had been growing some plants in peat moss after several of our violet club members experimented with it as a growing medium, and when I made reservations for

our speaker, told him about it, and asked him what I could add to the peat that would give me a completely balanced organic mixture. I have gardened outside organically, for many years, make a compost pile every fall with leaves, garden refuse and garbage, and, through Organic Gardening Magazine, knew about natural fertilizers and mineral rock, but never bought any, as I felt it was more for farms and large estates.

How wrong I was! ! Mr. Piche told me to try ground phosphate, potash and limestone rocks with sterilized cow manure, two tablespoons of each to a quart of peat moss and I would have a completely balanced growing medium which would make my plants so healthy that nothing would bother them, because he believed it is only plants which lack some vital element that are attacked by pests and disease. I had some very fine gravel which I sifted out of coarse sand and I added a cup of that to my quart of peat, I made up a large batch of it and added a handful of Activo to activate the bacteria, planted a great many plants in the mixture and watched to see what would happen. It was a revelation. I never had plants that took on such a beautiful sheen and grew as they did, so, gradually, I shifted everything out of soil into my mixture and have approximately one thousand or better gorgeous plants now.

The claim of the Organic Gardeners that no pest will live on plants that are grown in soil or other medium completely balanced in all elements needed for good health are I believe from this experience of mine true. I bought some plants from a friend which, to my horror, I found had mite, so, I immediately selenated everything, but overlooked cuttings which were on a shelf under the infested plants. Some mite evidently dropped down upon them, and when I began transplanting them several weeks later, I found the pests, and threw out all but a couple which I isolated in wide mouthed olive jars. I did nothing but water when needed, and in about six weeks they began to put out new leaves and the mite-infested leaves have all dropped off; what would happen with matured mite-infested plants, remains to be seen, for I have no space to experiment with that phase now.

Nematode infested plants, I have found and put into my mixture keep on growing and blooming and I find that the roots with the knots on them will eventually disintegrate and new roots form, and, so far, cuttings grown from infested plants do not have nematodes on their roots when grown in the same media or in vermiculite to which I add the rock minerals. Many people

who are using this method report they have wonderful success and can now grow African violets where they just never could get them to live before.

At first, I used chemical fertilizers on my plants after I started using the mineral mixture, but, I wasn't satisfied for I was still losing too many plants, so I stopped liquid feeding completely, substituted bonemeal for the limestone rock in my mixture for it would supply the plants with all the calcium they needed, and in addition would supply them with the phosphate, twenty-seven percent which is conducive to abundant bloom.

The ground phosphate and potash rocks are NOT fertilizers, they simply supply the plants with the minerals they need and condition the soil and are available for a period of four years. They will not burn, I have dipped the ends of leaves just taken from the plants into each kind of rock to see what would happen and they grew just fine. Potash rock or granite dust has an analytical reading of 0-0-5½ to 7½, plus nineteen trace minerals, phosphate rock 0-30-0, plus twenty-six trace minerals and both are beneficial to all growing things.

I use Hybro-tite Rock Potash which analyzes from 4.73 to 5.29% of potash, part of which is available to the plants at once, the rest over a period of four years, and other trace elements and nutrients are: Aluminum, iron, silicon, magnesium, yttrium, silver, sodium, titanium, phosphorus, zirconium, lead, calcium, zinc, manganese, potassium, chromium, nickel, vanadium, copper and strontium. This potash is free from molybdenum which is commonly found in potash deposits and an excess of this element found in soil will poison both plants and livestock; it is mined at Lithonia, Georgia.

The Ruhm Phosphate Rock I use is mined at Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee where rich deposits were discovered and it is ground extra fine (300 mesh) for quick results. To quote: "Plant physiologists tell us that all plant rootlets exude, or give off, hydrogen which combines with carbon dioxide in the soil to form carbonic acid. It is this acid which acts on the phosphate particles and breaks down the tri-calcium phosphate. This reaction makes the phosphoric acid of the phosphate readily available to the plants which they take into the feeder rootlets through the process of osmosis. All crops are able to feed on phosphate rock, and, since it is free of any caustic action, it is safe to use on the tenderest plants."

Several times our National Magazine has carried articles on the natural habitat of the African violet and we are told that Africa is composed of mountain ranges, one on another in the form of steps and that the species are found growing in pockets of humus in gneiss rock formations. Webster says gneiss is crystallized rock composed of quartz, mica and feldspar, he says quartz is a compound of pure silica; feldspar is a name for various crystalline minerals and that

plates. We, of course, know it in the form of vermiculite, wyolite, zonolite, etc. Keeping this in mind, what could be more in keeping with mica is a mineral divisible into thin transparent Nature's growing plan than the one I am now following?

I use Michigan peat moss as a base, and do not sterilize for that destroys the enzymes and ions which it contains and they are needed to break down the elements in the growing medium so they are available to the plant rootlets; this is my humus. With the ground potash and phosphate rocks taking the place of gneiss rock, I have mineral rocks with their rich trace elements, the cow manure also supplies humus as well as partly soluble plant food with analysis of 2-2-4. Bonemeal, which is slower acting than cow manure will be available to the plant for a long time to come, and the Activo sees to it that the bacteria do a good underground job in breaking down the food furnished and making it plant available.

Further experimentation proves that of equal parts of phosphate and potash ground rock, cow manure and bonemeal mixed together, I can use, for instance, one quart of peat, one quart of sand and three cups of the mixed minerals, and others are experimenting with stronger mixtures. BUT a word of caution, I found that in a planting of mixed Gesneria seeds, not one African violet as much as lived for more than a couple of days, and a friend who transplanted close to one hundred and fifty seedlings lost all of them, so we came to the conclusion that it is too rich for seedlings, but, I have wonderful luck with leaf cuttings grown in the weaker mix, eight tablespoons to a quart of peat with either sand or gravel added. I have added it in varying amounts to both sand and vermiculite for cuttings and get beautiful sturdy plants, and friends report that adding a couple of spoonfuls of the mixed minerals to their plants growing in soil have just done wonders for those plants.

I have been mixing a five gallon crock of the stronger mixture, adding a handful of Activo and then keeping it moist and it is always ready to use, I seldom lose a plant anymore and this past summer, my plants were beautiful in spite of the intense heat.

Why don't you try Nature's way? I believe you will like it.

THE END

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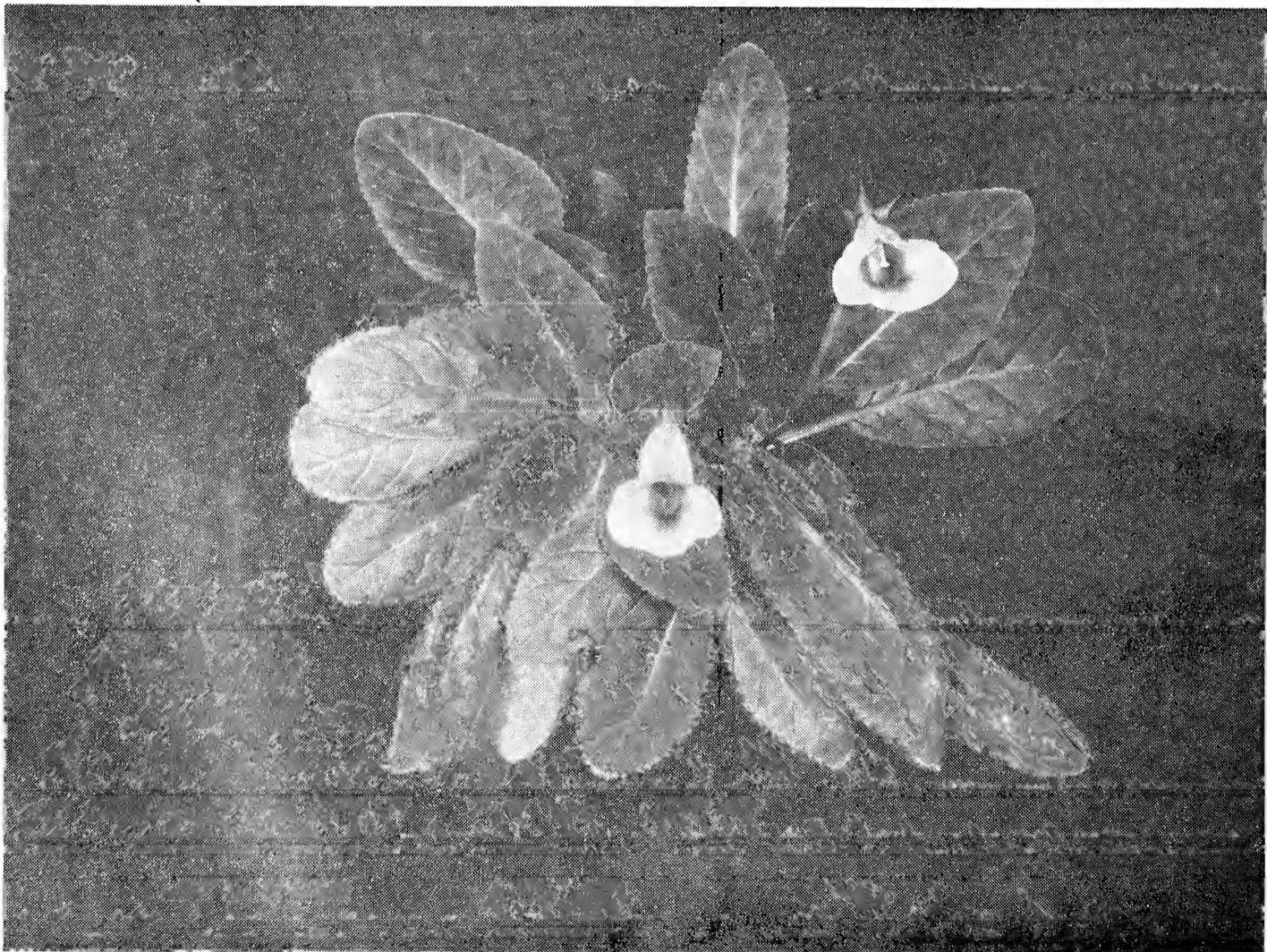
For Our African Violets

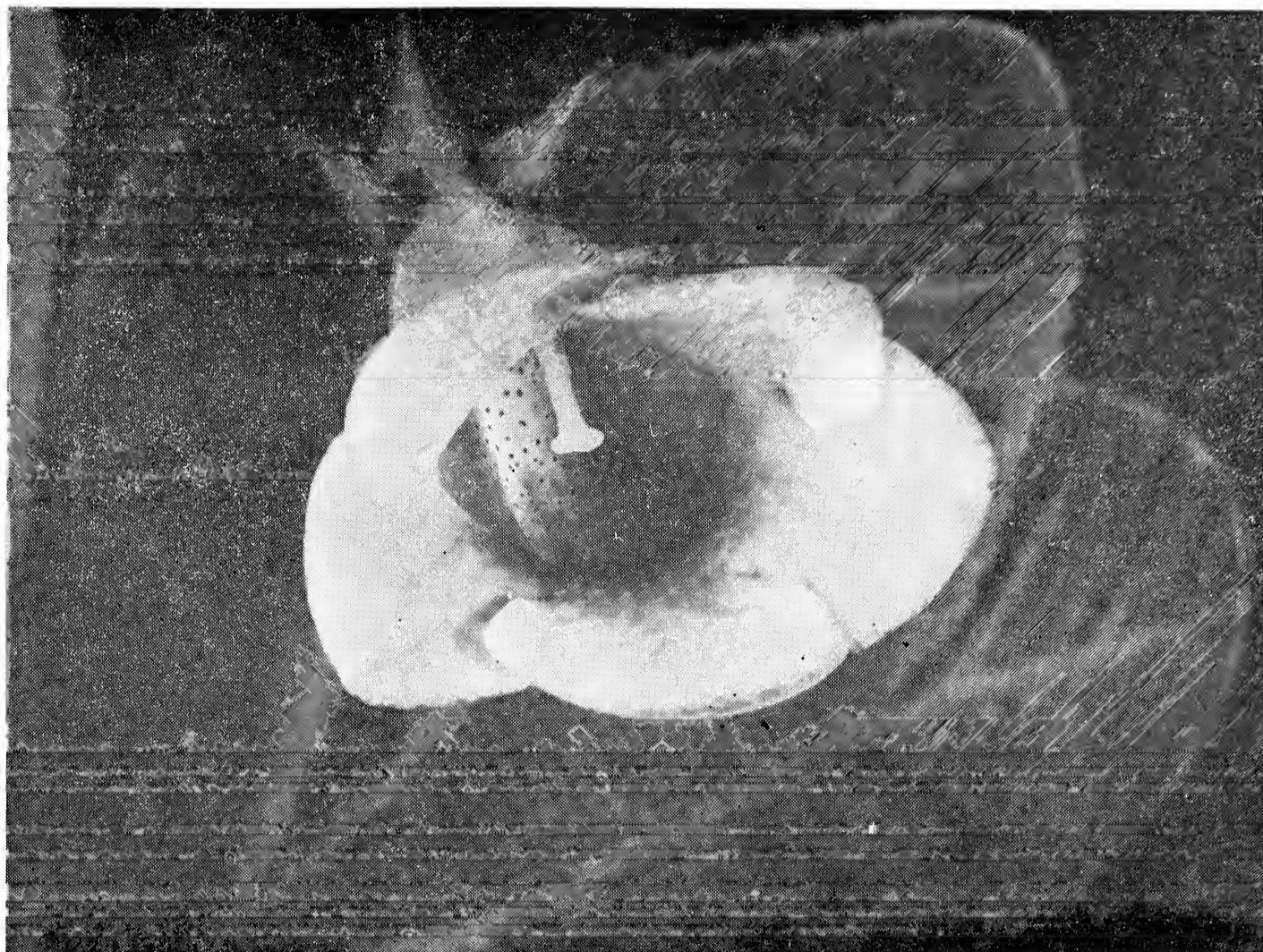
Henry Peterson, Cincinnati, Ohio

About six or seven years ago Mrs. Arthur Radtke brought us a leaf and a pink flower of a strange plant. This was identified as a Slipper Gloxinia, another Gesneriaceae, one of the famous cousins of the African violet. We propagated the leaf and from the resulting plant put down many more leaves. Since then many people have expressed a desire for this plant. With its similar nature we decided it would make a fine companion plant for our violet crop. On scouting around for some source of supply of this plant, we found that it was almost unknown and

definitely there was no supply in the normal trade circles. We were told that it had probably been popular with our great grandmothers, but that the larger flowered gloxinias had taken over in the regular florist trade. We found that Mrs. Carroll, the Armchair Explorer of California, carried some of the seed on her price list. Also Mrs. Carl Snowberg of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, had a small supply of several of the different varieties. From these sources we have now built up a supply of Slipper Gloxinias in pink, blue, white with a blue throat, white with pink throat, and double red.

The Slipper Gloxinia in the picture has been growing continuously on the editor's kitchen window shelf for three years. It has had no resting period, but sends up new shoots periodically as the old top dies down. A steady bloomer this lovely plant has been in flower most of the winter.





A close up of the blossom.

We believe there are several advantages to the Slipper Gloxinia over the large flowered types. You can develop a nice shaped blooming plant in the same size group as your African violet. The foliage is generally much more flexible than the foliage of the large gloxinia. The Slipper Gloxinia tends to bloom over a much longer period. Terrific results have been reported from those growing Slipper Gloxinias under light set-ups; a good mass of flowers on small plants over a long period of time. As for cultural conditions, they are given similar treatment as for African violets; the same soil mixture, temperatures about seventy degrees, warm water, light -- the same as violets. So far we have grown these gloxinias under continuous growing conditions, unlike the large type gloxinia. These plants indicate they do take some rest, possibly they will do better with a short drying off period. The best cultural methods for producing nice small, shapely plants will have to come from future work with this plant.

THE END

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THE CASE OF OUR DELICATE FRIENDS

Mrs. Robert Preston, Jackson, Mich.

My husband and I (both members of the National Society) have a small African violet shop. We have been working on this project for about five years.

This flower house is heated independently from our home. We have been heating this house, which is a greenhouse with a solid roof, with a well-known make of circulating heater.

Now most everyone knows that Michigan is noted for its weather. On the sixth of January 1954, the heater decided to go on the blink. A few minutes past 8 a. m. the temperature alarm from the flower house rang. I ran quickly to the other house only to find our plants had been thoroughly blackened with oil film and soot. I shut off the heater and called my husband home from work. In temperatures around fifteen above zero and a light blizzard on hand, we carried, uncovered, all of the plants and rooted cuttings into the basement. The fluorescent lights we had used on cloudy days were put over them. The house reeked with oil fumes when they were all in. Then the washing began. With the help of a good friend and my mother and sister, each and every plant and cutting was washed with warm Ivory suds and then rinsed with warm water, using a small bulb sprayer.

The leaves of the plants that had to be discarded had the appearance of having been seared, and many of the buds blasted. The oil seemed to have saturated the soil, killing the roots of some of them. It went through the vermiculite, destroying the roots and small plants of the cuttings. The young plants in two inch pots were the ones that suffered the most.

I have discarded over two hundred plants and each day a few more are gone. About fifteen per cent of the plants have made the grade. Some of them have had to be stripped down to the last two or three leaves, but are making a comeback a little at a time. Who said our violets are fragile? After that experience I would say they were quite sturdy.

At our January Club meeting the ladies gave me a Violet shower. It was a complete surprise and a wonderful morale builder. The nineteenth of January found the building all cleaned and freshly painted, the new heating plant installed and the plants being moved back in their own little house. Business went on as usual in our living room.

It was a hard blow to us but we are wiser for our experience.

THE END

Home Research On African Violets

Edith Lundberg, LaSalle, Ill.

About ten years ago I started to try my hand at raising African violets. Several friends had beautiful plants, just full of blooms and I thought I would indeed be happy if I too, could raise such lovely plants.

I purchased several plants -- had some given to me, and tried to give them that tender, loving care that seemed necessary. But to no avail -- they all died in short order! However, I do not give up easily and like the small boy who takes a watch apart to see what makes it tick, I considered it a challenge to see just what I was doing wrong.

I questioned those who had nice plants and read every bit of information I could possibly find on Saintpaulias.

My first "mistake" I discovered was that I was using cold water. I thought they would enjoy a nice cool drink but when I changed to lukewarm or tepid water, my first problem was solved. Then I learned that they don't like to be dry but it was far worse to have them constantly wet. Each plant was watered faithfully from the "bottom" as everyone said I should. The result was that I was still losing plants from crown rot. I wore myself out looking to see if the top soil was wet enough. It was wet, alright, but much too wet, so I decided to water only from the top. I purchased a one quart watering can with a long thin spout so I could reach in under the leaves.

I watered only until the soil was wet through and if the water ran out the bottom, I emptied the dish immediately. This saved me much time and worry as I didn't have to keep checking the pots. Also the tops of my pots are always clean as no fertilizer salts collects there. It stays in the bottom of the pot. I never put any strips on the edge of my pots. I think it detracts from the beauty of the plant.

At last my plants were thriving but the "research" was only beginning. Three years ago I had eighteen varieties. I now have eighty varieties and about three hundred plants. I make it a point to have only one of a variety in my collection but have smaller plants coming up just in case I should lose one. One of the thrills of the hobby is in watching them grow.

I tried rooting leaves with no result. I put some in a drinking glass with the wax paper on top as so many advocate. The leaves either didn't stay "put" or they rotted immediately. I finally made up a shallow pan with a layer of coarse sand in the bottom and peat moss on top.

I wet this down thoroughly and put my leaves in. This proved successful and I raised quite a few plants. I did not remove the little plants until they were three or four months old. When I did remove them and divided them, they had a wonderful root system and made a more rapid growth in the soil mixture. I have always believed that peat moss contains an abundance of Nature's own plant food, besides providing the moisture necessary for the little plants.

The name of each plant is marked on a piece of freezer-tape such as is used to seal packages for home freezers and is pasted on the leaf. When the leaf sprouts I remove the tape and paste it on the side of the pan underneath the leaf. Then when the leaf dies, the plant is still marked. I also label my pots with freezer tape. My propagating mixture is now changed to one-half peat moss and one-half vermiculite, well mixed. Leaves rooted in this mixture seem to sprout more quickly for me. I also changed to broken charcoal instead of coarse sand and like it better. I do root some leaves in water now but use rain water with a pinch of "Transplantone" and use the brown or green medicine bottles. When they have a good root growth, I put them in the peat moss mixture.

Like most African violet beginners I had trouble transplanting small plants to pots or dividing larger ones. They were limp for days after transplanting and it took a week or more for them to come out of the "shock" and get crisp again. Then a friend told me about using "Transplantone" and I really believe it was the turning point in my success in raising beautiful plants.

Because I have never seen anyone recommend "Transplantone" in any of the articles of the African Violet Magazine, I should like to pass on to other readers, my method of transplanting. I believe it will benefit a great many of our members.

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1

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"Transplantone" is, in my opinion, the wonder drug of the plant world. It is manufactured by the makers of "Rootone," but unlike Rootone which is used as a dry dip, "Transplantone" is dissolved in water and never burns either the leaves or roots of plants. They are both plant hormones and are manufactured by the American Chemical Paint Company, Ambler, Pennsylvania or Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The manufacturer recommends it for transplanting cabbage plants, tomato plants, trees, shrubs, etc. But what is good for a tomato plant in this instance, is also very fine for our beloved Saintpaulias.

When I am getting ready to transplant either a small plant or a larger one, I do the following: First, I mix my soil by using two parts garden loam, one part peat moss and one part very coarse sand. I mix this thoroughly then put it into a shallow enamel baking pan. I wet it thoroughly and bake it in a two hundred and fifty degree oven for one hour, uncovered. When it is removed, it is still wet. I let it stand a short while then put it in a bucket and bake some more. I stir it well with a trowel to "aerate" it and prevent lumping.

The second step is to clean all pots to be used by soaking them in very hot water to which I add some household ammonia. I scrub them with a small hand brush and rinse in clear hot water and set aside to drain. I allow them to dry thoroughly for several days before using them. When I am ready to transplant, I gather my soil and pots and some bits of pot and broken charcoal. I have a bag of dehydrated shredded sheep manure and a bag of vermiculite. Then I gather the following "tools." — Tablespoon, teaspoon, nutpick (such as comes with nut cracking sets) Transplantone, one quart enameled sauce pan and a one and one-half inch brush which is used for cleaning off the leaves and petioles if they get covered with soil. I like the sheep manure better than cow manure because it is said to contain twice as much potash and believe it is better for bloom. Cow manure causes plants to grow too large for me. At this time I add a generous sprinkling of vermiculite to the dry soil mixture. It really does help.

Taking the proper size pot -- a three inch pot for small plants and four inch pot for larger plants, I put a piece of crockery over the hole and add several pieces of broken charcoal. The plants seem to love this as their roots go down and actually wrap around the charcoal. Then I put in several inches of dry soil mixture and on top of that I add one teaspoon dried sheep manure for a three inch pot and two teaspoons for a four inch pot. I stir it a little, then add a little more soil. If I take small plants from the propagating mixture, I divide them and set in the soil, and firm them with my fingers and add a little more soil. I press the dry soil down in the pot so it won't settle too much later. In the meantime, I have the one quart enamel pan filled with lukewarm water and dissolve 1/32 of a tea-

spoon of "Transplantone" in it and stir well with a silver tablespoon. I measure this by using a one-fourth teaspoon measuring spoon and figuring out one-eighth of that.

When the new plant is firmed in the pot, I water it with the tablespoon, with enough Transplantone solution to wet the soil thoroughly from the top, and set them aside to drain. The nut pick is the sturdiest tool I have and I would not like to be without it. It is fine for removing small crowns from plants. In removing small plants from the propagating pan it is the handiest thing I know of.

In transplanting larger plants from small pots to larger ones, I have the larger pot ready, put a piece of crockery over the hole and some pieces of charcoal. Then I add some soil mixture and two teaspoons of shredded sheep manure, stirring slightly. I use the nut pick to push the plant from its small pot, from the bottom. The whole earth and plant will come out without damage. If it sticks, wet the soil a little first. Place it on the new soil and firm it down with the fingers of both hands. I gently spoon more soil in around it and press down. Then I water the same as with small plants.

For the past four years since using Transplantone, I have never had a wilted plant from the smallest seedling to the largest plant in full bloom. The day after transplanting the leaves and petioles are as crisp as if they had never been moved. That is why I consider "Transplantone" a miracle compound. It seems to take away the shock of moving African violets in the same way our modern miracle drugs help us in surgery and shock.

I have had at least six sports in the last four years and believe it is partly due to my method of rooting the leaves in peat moss and watering with "Transplantone." I believe the hormones help to make the mutations. This is just my opinion of course! ! My first sport was a large lovely dark blue Supreme single. I rooted a leaf of Amazon Double Duchess. It sprouted two plants, one a double Supreme type, the other a single Supreme.

I have always liked Viking but the plants attained a large size, some fourteen inches or more in diameter. As I don't care for plants that are so large I gave them away or sold them. Then I rooted a leaf of a small plant and was amazed that the resulting plant was a perfect dwarf and remained small growing only about six inches in diameter but perfectly proportioned. It is now three years old and has bloomed almost constantly. I was not able to propagate it until this year but now have several nice plants. Two years ago I planted a leaf of Amethyst and it sprouted two plants, one a true Amethyst, the other a lovely light blue.

Several other plants seem to be sporting. I purchased a Dark Beauty last spring. It bloomed a double white and blue until summer, then quit blooming. When it started to bloom this fall,

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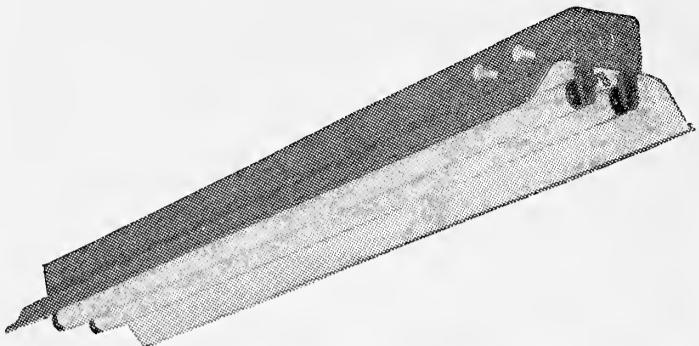
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the blossoms had changed to a solid orchid and the leaves had a different shape. I blame it on the heat. But it is very lovely.

I believe most people know of only three ways to propagate a new plant -- by leaf, crown or seed. I have had success with leaves and seeds but never allow crowns to develop on my plants. As soon as I am sure it is a crown I knock it off with my nut pick. It makes a nicer plant and blooms more readily. I also have noticed that it discourages more crowns from appearing. There is a fourth way to propagate a new plant and that is by rooting a flower stem which has produced little leaves just below the first flower bud. Some of these leaves seem larger than usual and make for easier rooting. This is especially desirable when a choice plant is to be reproduced. It is much quicker than a leaf.

I rooted such a flower stem four years ago from a Mentor Boy. At that time I pinched off the flower stem down to the little leaves and allowed about one and one-half inches of stem below that. I then placed the stem on its side in the soil of a flower pot, containing another plant -- covering the stem but leaving the leaves above the soil enough so they wouldn't rot. It developed roots and sprouted more leaves out of the crown where the flower stem had been. The original leaves continued to grow and the plant is now four years old and still lovely. I did not try to root any since but now have four or five in my peat propagating mixture. This system might be the answer for growing those freak blossoms that seem to defy pollinating.

My biggest experiment now is with variegated foliage. I have a lovely DuPont Blue with true variegated foliage that is now four years old. I have tried to root some of the leaves but it always resulted in plain green foliage. So two years ago, I self-pollinated this plant and grew a nice seed pod. The seed pod was more than a year old before I planted the seed. Last April they were planted in a mixture of peat moss and vermiculite, laid on some broken charcoal. I covered it with a piece of glass for several weeks. In three weeks the seeds sprouted and I have fifty-two nice plants which have been transplanted twice. The first time, I removed each seedling with a nut pick and carefully planted it into a peat and vermiculite mixture over broken charcoal in a flat earthenware pan. In another two months, I transplanted them into a peat and vermiculite mixture, over charcoal, in a two inch pot. They are now ready to plant in three inch pots, in soil, after another two months.

Some of the plants show a slight variegation on the leaves. I am hoping that the plants will show full variegation as they mature in soil. Then I shall experiment to see if leaves from these will sprout variegated plants. I do not agree with some of our members that a "variegated" plant is "starved" and when the plant is fed with fertilizer it reverts to plain green. I have transplanted my original plant at least

three times, each time giving it new sheep manure. I feed it "Stim-U-Plant" solution and have watered it with "Transplantone" solution. It is now four years old and more beautiful than ever. One thing that I have noticed is that it requires full light and some sun but without danger of burning, of course. I have set it back several times, thinking it didn't want so much light, but found it does better in full light.

One final hint in transplanting seedlings. They like a shallow pan or dish with a bed of charcoal underneath for drainage. I mix the peat moss and vermiculite (half and half) and wet it thoroughly with plain water letting it stand a day or two. Then I put it in the dish and wet it again with Transplantone solution -- not too wet. When it has absorbed enough, I remove the seedling with the nut pick. I make a dent in the mixture with a finger on my right hand -- holding the plant in my left fingers -- I place the root on the mixture and firm it down with my right finger. Then I proceed with the other seedlings the same way until the pan is filled. I leave an inch or more between for growing space. It does not need watering again for several days and they really continue to grow. Then I water with a medicine dropper until they are large enough for the watering can.

My large collection is mostly in a south bay window. A lazy susan is in the center with a stand of three glass shelves 12" x 30" on each side. My husband designed these and made them with the assistance of a friend. I can place sixty-five plants in four inch pots with plenty of space for circulation between. The plants do better here than in any other location in the house. I have thin curtains at the windows to break the sun's rays and when the sun is too hot, I pull the shades for an hour or two.

It simply isn't true that you can't raise African violets in a south window. But of course you can't use Venetian blinds or just drapes. There must be a thin curtain for protection or the leaves will "burn."

I am now planning to experiment with the little plants that grow on the petioles below the base of the leaf. I have had several and when the leaf died, I threw the plant away with the leaf because they seemed too tiny to do anything with. By accident, I discovered they actually have small roots embedded in the petiole. I now have five such plants. A leaf of Blue Reflection has two, one beneath the other. Another leaf of Blue Reflection next to it in the propagating mixture has two sprouts from the root and also has developed two plantlets up on the petiole. A leaf of Lavender Pink Girl has a plant sprout. The leaf itself was torn in the leaf part and where the injury "healed" it is sprouting a plantlet. I am hoping to root these in time, the same as I would a tiny plant. It will be something new to watch.

THE END

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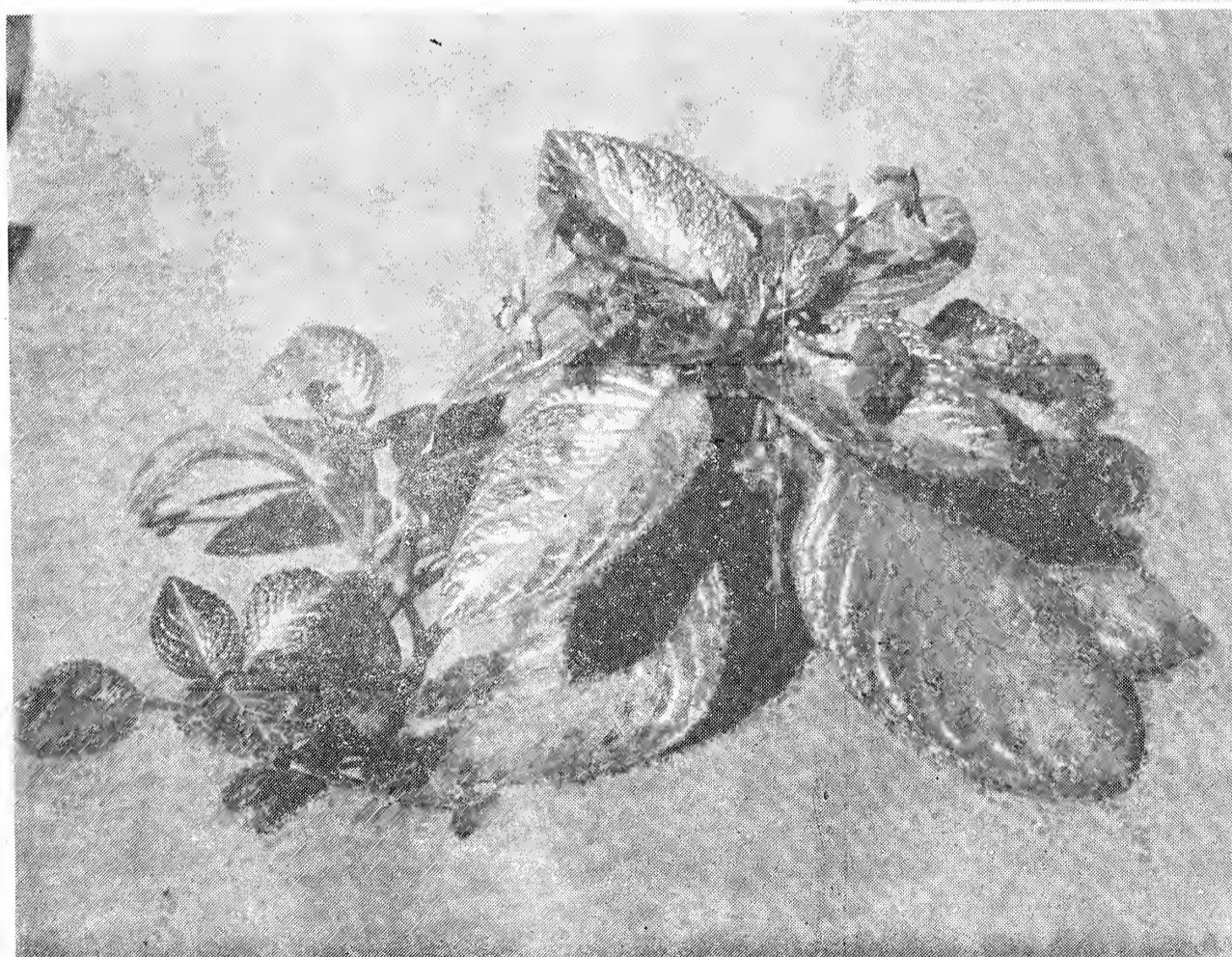
Episcias

Alma Wright

Reprinted from Popular Gardening Magazine with the permission of the editor, Paul F. Frese.



Above, *Viridifolia*, showing its drooping or trailing manner of growth. This is perhaps the freest-flowering now in cultivation.



Left, *Splendens*, an attractive sort with leaves larger than most, silver in center and grass green at edges. Flowers are scarlet.

It won't be long before Episcias, now almost unknown by most window gardeners, will be near the top of the list of popular house plants.

All of them have beautiful foliage and a vining or trailing habit that brings grace to windows and wall brackets, and most kinds have trumpet shaped, brilliant scarlet flowers. Furthermore, like their cousins the Saintpaulias or African violets, they thrive in over-heated modern homes and are easy to propagate and grow.

At present, the following are the finest commercially available in this country.

One of the most attractive and best known is *E. FULGIDA*, the plant commonly called *E. coccinea*. Its brownish leaves, marked with a lovely silvery green center vein, are hairy and lightly scalloped. Its bright scarlet blossoms are large and fringed. This is a strong growing, showy plant, highly decorative and an ornament to any window garden.

Dark, metallic looking leaves distinguish the medium-sized *E. CUPREATA*. Indeed, this easy-to-grow plant with copper colored leaves flecked, sometimes with a shining lilac, is most valuable when placed near others of its kind for contrast of its leaves with their lighter, brighter ones. Its flowers, average-sized and a brilliant scarlet, are freely produced.

But the most free flowering of them all is *E. CUPREATA VIRIDIFOLIA*. This is a very effective plant, with scarlet blossoms shown to advantage above smooth, Nile green leaves which are often made more interesting by irregular spots of light cream.

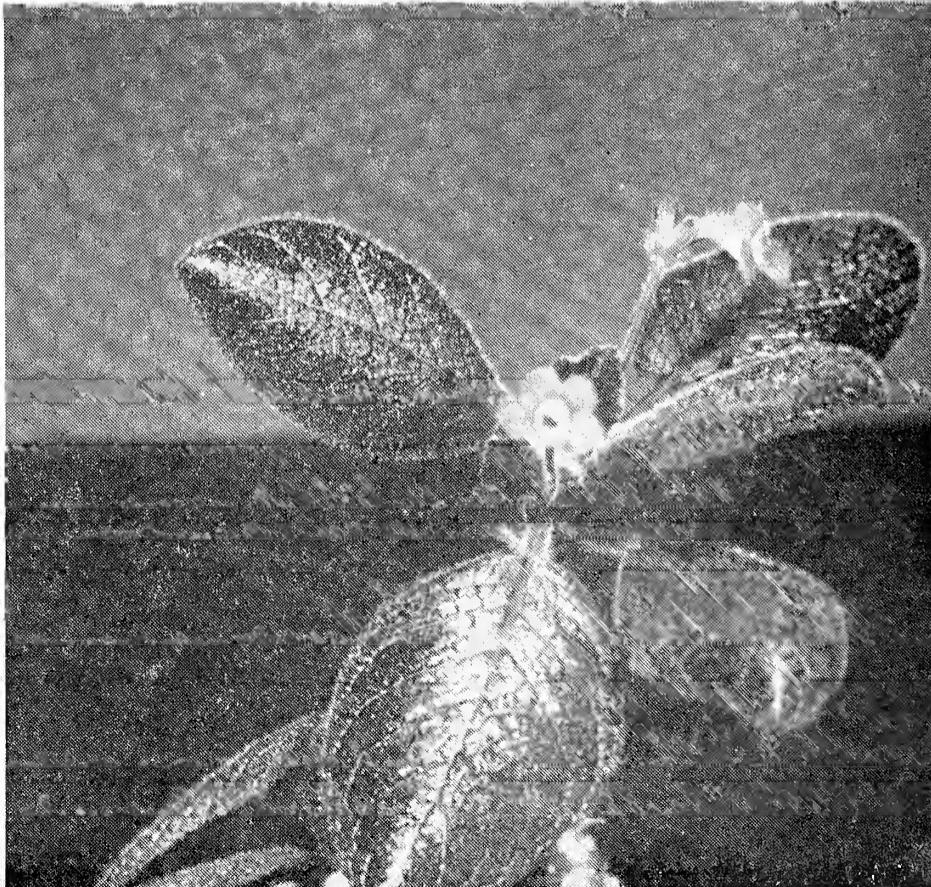


Fulgida which generally goes by the name of *E. coccinea*. Its flowers are large, a bright scarlet and fringed. Leaves are scalloped.

Lilacina

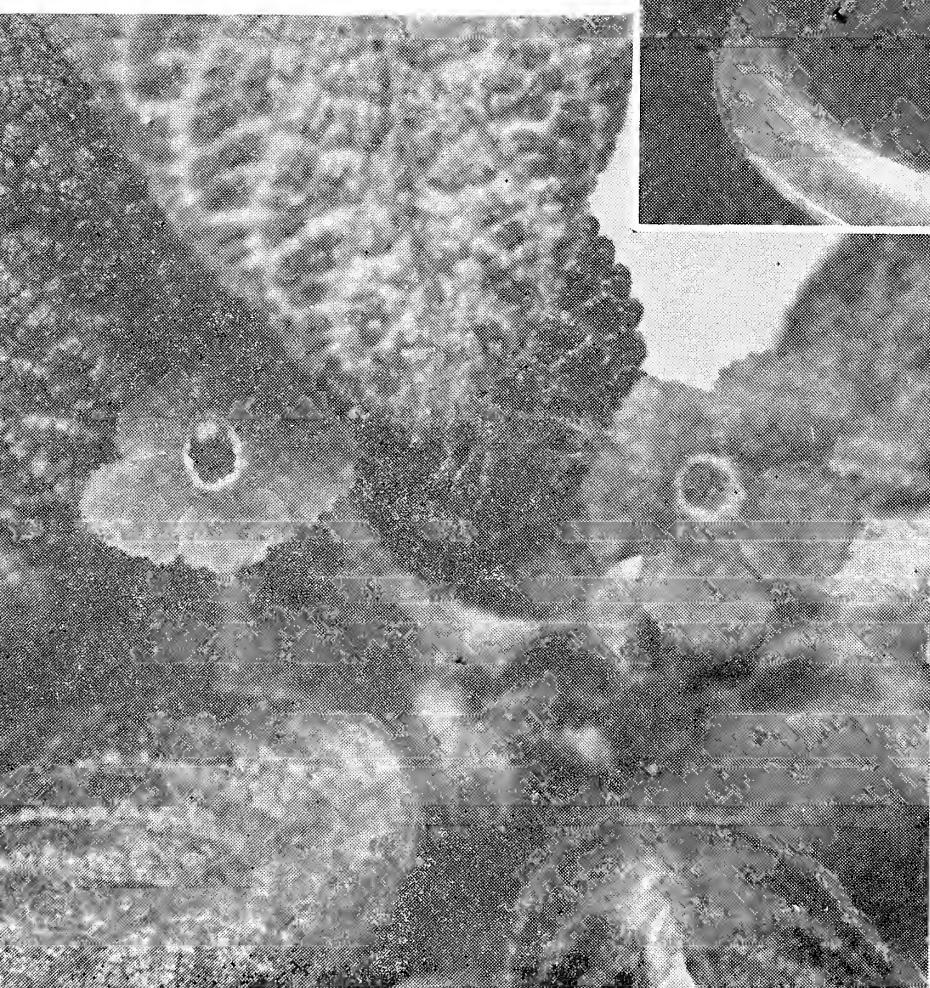


Cupreata



Very decorative is Episcia Silver Sheen with its bright silver leaves and darker margins.

Below, a close up of the lovely scarlet flowers of E. Silver Sheen.



SILVER SHEEN is yet another *E. cuprea* variant. It has medium-sized scarlet flowers and hairy, silver-colored leaves bordered by a mottled red-brown. This eye-catching Episcia is a good grower and a worthy addition to its exotic family.

Of those described here, *E. CHONTALENSIS* has the smallest leaves. They are a dull, darkish green with a thin, inconspicuous silvery center vein. This tender sort produces pale green runners and is a shy bloomer. Its flowers, delicately fringed at the edges, are not scarlet but a light blue. They mostly appear in fall.

(At the time this story was written the name *E. chontalensis* was the accepted name. This variety is now correctly identified as EPISCIA LILACINA, green leaf variety.)

E. TESSELLATA (*Nautilocalyx bullata*) is a very unusual plant that differs decidedly from others of its family. Its habit is upright; its large, glossy, purplish-brown leaves have a bubbly texture as novel as the new woolens; its heavy-substanced blooms are a medium yellow. This one may be grown to a height of almost 2 feet. It is, perhaps, the largest Episcia in cultivation today and certainly is a collector's item.

Surely the recently imported *E. LILACINA* will be welcomed by houseplant lovers for its lustrous, reddish-bronze foliage and heavily fringed, cream-throated, light lavender-blue blossoms that are not only different in color from other Episcias but are the largest known to date. It, moreover, is a profuse bloomer.

The next three have not yet been completely or conclusively identified and will, therefore, be described under numbers.

No. 1, recently introduced, is a highly desirable plant with glossy, silvery green leaves marked medium-brown at the edges. Its scarlet blooms are medium-sized.

No. 2, also has scarlet flowers. Its downy-leaves—bronze deepening to darker edges are decorated with a beautiful iridescent lilac midrib. The foliage of this plant is so colorful that it more than makes up for its slack blooming habit.

No. 3, also has very striking leaves. They have reddish copper edges that contrast most dramatically with centers of a glistening silver green. Besides its beautiful foliage, the plant offers lovely flowers—fringed, cream-throated, pale pinkish-lavender ones!

This will be continued in September -- Editor.



Calling all MEN

Phil Libby, 1508 Hamilton Ave., Racine Wis.

Hi fellows:— Glad to hear that so many of you have promised to bring a new male member to the National Society; let's get after this thing, and increase our male membership at least one hundred per cent. If each man will get at least one other man to join we'll be able to do it.

Dr. John Freudenberg of Markesan, Wisconsin, visited our local society recently and gave us a talk on "Importance of Light." It is evident from his talk that he has made quite a study of fluorescent lighting and the raising of African violets under them, and as a result his success has been excellent. If you are in that vicinity, why not drop in and visit the good doctor? Maybe we can get him to write an article on the subject.

Speaking of fluorescent lights -- I am using a Niletone green in one of my lights for small plants, coloring of leaves is beautiful, but at this writing they have only been under this green light for a week, as time goes on I'll let you know more about the results.

A letter from Joseph Kaman of South Bend, Indiana, tells me that he has about fifty-six violets in his collection and still going. From Jackson, Michigan, writes George Rogers: "I have between forty and fifty varieties and am house growing them. Using what was a downstairs bedroom containing three tables and an old two story cigar case. The case has a twenty watt daylite lamp upstairs and a twenty watt warm white downstairs and the temperature is about seventy degrees with fifty per cent humidity. Over one of the larger tables I have a forty watt reflector type lamp and am planning on putting two additional twenty watt daylite fixtures under the table, and building a shelf, for I need more ROOM. Right now I have cuttings that should be potted -- where to put them? (My wife says, 'If you must grow violets, save your money and put up a greenhouse.')

But in the meantime! Another wrinkle is that we live in a strictly residential area -- so one has to be careful. The disappointing thing is THEY MOVE SO SLOW! Sales are the exception not the regular order. One reason I guess is that I don't advertise much. When I do, I use the personal column in the want ad section and it works pretty well. You see, I'm sixty-one, eligible to retire from the postal service (carrier) and I hoped that the violets would give me a

little additional income when I did retire -- but so far, it has been much more put in than take out." Well, George, maybe some of our readers can give you advice, for you are definitely on the right road. George's address is 414 Douglas Street, Jackson, Michigan.

From Erv Weiss, 14205 W. Hampton Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, comes the following -- "I've often thought of writing you, to tell you of my collection. Most of my plants came from Tinari's and I have about fifty varieties. Because of the surprise element I have fooled around with a lot of seeds. I don't know whether that's such a good idea because every plant must be grown to blooming and few turn out to be other than blues and it does take a lot of room." If any of our readers has any suggestions why not write Erv?

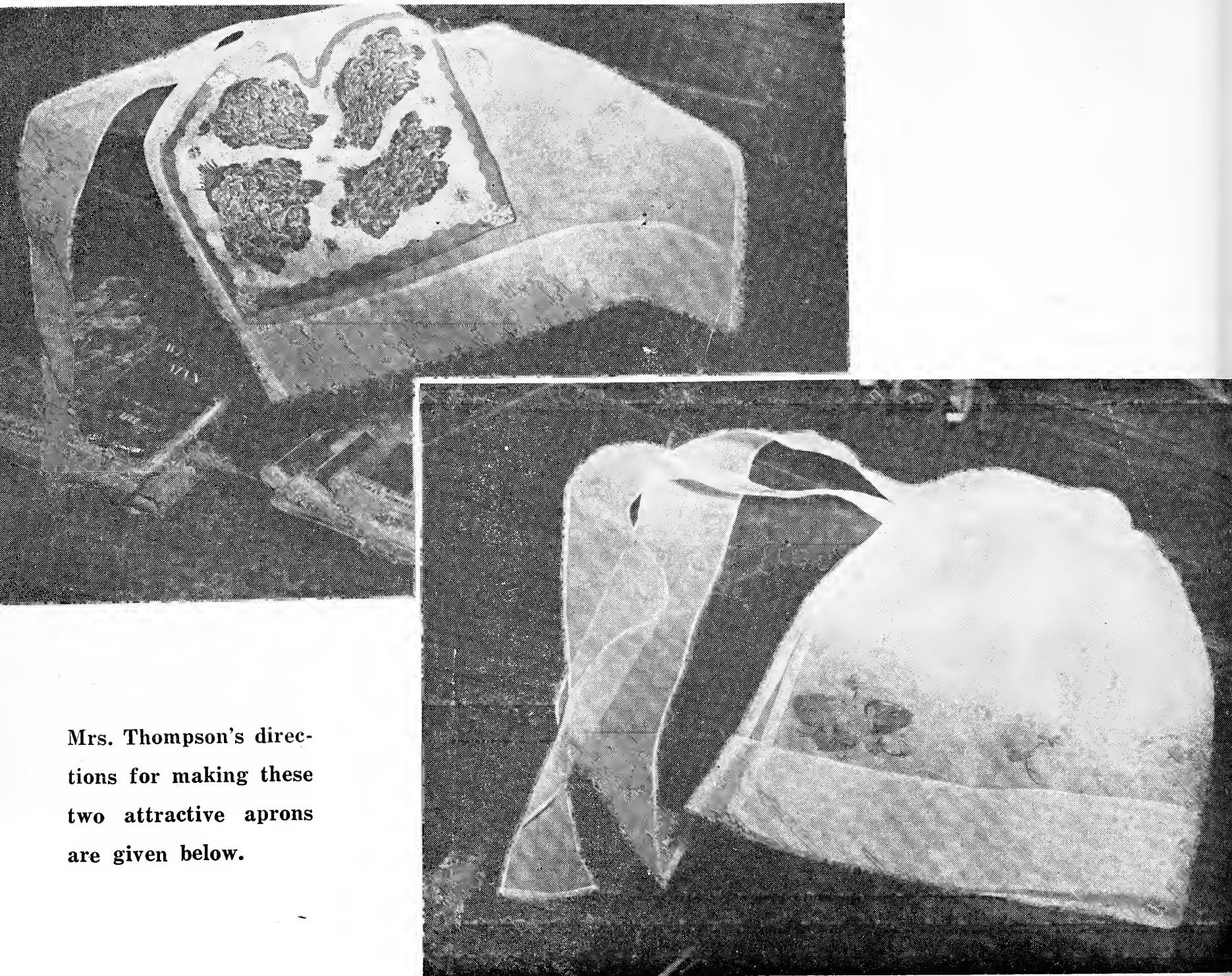
Another Wisconsinite, John Thyssen, Route 1, West De Pere, writes, "I am sixteen years old and I have sixteen varieties of African violets. I only started buying them a short time ago and have been buying them steadily with all my spare money. My favorite is Kay's Quilted, because of the enormous leaves. I start my leaves in vermiculite and so far have very good results. Recently some of my aunts told me that growing violets was for women, but I knew better from reading your article and it did not bother me. Mr. William Verhagen has been helping me with information as to growing and he suggested I write you." Fine John, just show those aunts of yours you can grow better violets than they can. It can be done.

Notice that a lot of doctors are growing violets, one who lives in a neighboring city -- Dr. L. T. Kent, at Kenosha, is working on seedlings to a great extent. He has a beautiful collection of seedlings. Let's hear from more of you men with your special activities in violet growing.

Again let me ask you fellows to bring in more members to the National and your local societies. I have made a number of speaking engagements at local groups on the subject of "African Violets and Men," and have appeared on television on the same subject. It won't take long to get the men interested if we will all take a hand to show the men that this is not exclusively a ladies' hobby. Let's adopt the slogan "Every male member bring in another male member." Thanks, fellows!

See you in the next issue.

THE END



Mrs. Thompson's directions for making these two attractive aprons are given below.

The African Violet Idea Bench

Rose Hahn, 301 Garden Ave., Knoxville 18, Tenn.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that have written to this column. However, please note that we must have good photographs of your articles or projects, for reproduction, not just sketches. If you can not get photographs, send the material, we will have photos made and return your material.

Mrs. Francis Thompson, of Knoxville, Tennessee should be given credit for the towel and luncheon cloth, shown in the last issue. Also the following article on aprons.

To make these aprons use $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of material, 36 inches wide. Cut two strips $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide across the length ($1\frac{1}{2}$ yards) for sashes. Cut one strip $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide -- divide, making two 18 inch bands. Divide balance of material into two parts, hem sides, put 4 inch hem in bottom, attach band and sashes. The stencil used was McCall's No. 1734, the directions for applying stencil are on the package. The above makes two aprons.

JUNE MAGAZINE PRIZE WINNING APRON

You do not have to be an artist or a fancy seamstress to make this simple "apronchief."

Materials required: $1\frac{1}{8}$ yards of organdy, batiste or percale. One 12 inch square violet flowered handkerchief -- preferably one with the same design in each corner. Entered by Mrs. D. J. Schindelholtz, 1234 Central Avenue, Beloit, Wisconsin.



JUNE MAGAZINE PRIZE WINNING APRON

This apron was entered in the contest by Mrs. Walter F. Smith, Jr., 653 N. Garfield Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Materials required: Select the material you can work a design in most easily -- if you wish to do the huck weaving. This design Mrs. Smith did herself. The violet was stamped on from McCall's transfer pattern number 1775.



The Homing Pigeon

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Pigeons:

As I write this, Cleveland and northern Ohio is in the midst of a terrible blizzard. Snow outside my window is twenty inches deep and drifts up to five feet high in the drive. Way back in September did I really wish for cooler weather? Doesn't seem possible that spring is just around the corner and that of course, means Convention time. It will be nice to see my many Pigeon friends, both old and new. When you read this, the Convention will be over, as will the spring shows. I am hoping that your ribbons will all be blue and your prizes many.

Your Hint Hunter,
Helen Pochurek

I use a small rubber ear syringe to apply liquid fertilizers. It puts the fertilizer just where you want it.

Jennie Cowan, Calif.

Introducing
WHITE PROMISE
Huge double white
Limited supply of plants or leaves, available at —

RIENHARDT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

West Seneca Tpk., Routes 20N and 175
2 miles west of Syracuse, N. Y.
200 Varieties — No Shipping



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road
Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon
News Editor

When soaking dry clay pots, I add two tablespoons of vinegar to one gallon of water.
Rose Jenkins, Calif.

I have a plastic cover such as are used for pies in restaurants. When potting leaves I put pots in a baking pan containing some sand that has been dampened and cover with plastic cover. This miniature greenhouse gets them off to a good start. In a week or so, they are ready to go under the lights and the cover is used for other cuttings.

I allow leaves to heal for an hour -- then dip in a mixture of one third each sulphur, Fermate and Rootone. Put a teaspoon of fine charcoal in a glass of water. Insert leaves in water.

Mrs. Harold Poure, Unit 131, South Bend, Ind.

The little aluminum dishes that frozen chicken pies come in make fine saucers to hold your plants.

John Stebbins, Bangor, Mich.

I took an eight inch aluminum foil pie pan, cut it off where it slants away from the bottom -- took the top piece, bent it double, fluted the edge and use around top of pot to prevent petiole rot. I flute the edge of the bottom piece and have a matching saucer.

Mrs. Olga Witter, Koch, Mo.

I use pipe cleaners to prop up leaves of newly transplanted violets, until they have regained their vitality.

Mrs. Glen Young, Vestal, N. Y.

When rooting leaves, I use a baking pan. Cut a piece of half inch hardware cloth and fit over pan. Insert leaves thru wire. When rooted, and ready to transplant, simply cut petioles above wire and lift wire off. There you have a fine pan of baby plants. If rooted leaves are wanted for another rooting, use a wire with a larger mesh.

Helen McMahon, Macedonia, Ohio
THE END



GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS FAST WITH THOMPSON'S AMAZING AFRICAN VIOLET ROOTER

Simply dip stems in powder and in 2 to 3 weeks they shoot sturdy roots.
Buy at most good garden stores or order by mail. \$1.00 postpaid.

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IVA WOODS
226 High Street
New Wilmington, Penna.
Homing Pigeon
Membership Manager

Dear Pigeon Friends:

Today as I write this it is snowing, but thinking of the date one is aware of the fact that spring will soon be here and when you read this it will be sunny and warm in all of the country.

I want first of all to pause this time in this column to pay tribute to that grand group of women and men who are the directors of the Pigeons. They spend a lot of time and effort in keeping the pigeons flying and interesting. I want to say a public "Thank You" to them each and every one! We could all be much more thoughtful of them and so let us begin now to give them the thanks and credit which is due to them. They are the backbone of the Pigeon.

Now to all of you members of the Pigeons, let's all try to keep our time limit, and to write letters full of interest about our violets. Good growing to all of you.

Sincerely,
Iva Woods

THE END

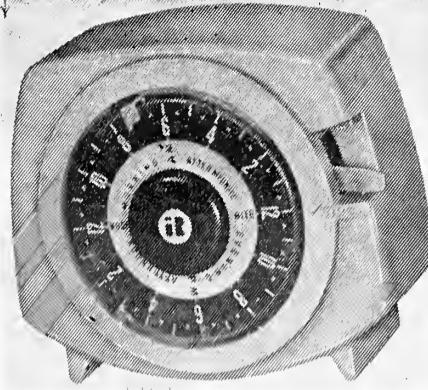
YOU, TOO, CAN GROW PRIZE-WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

For two years the prize-winning blossoms at the National African Violet Show have been grown with Plant Marvel . . . the scientifically balanced, 100% water-soluble plant food. It supplies the entire root system with the natural, concentrated food elements needed for rapid, healthy growth and bloom. Very easy and economical to use . . . a 35¢ package makes 68 quarts, 75¢ package makes 125 gals., \$1.25 package makes 250 gals. of rich liquid food.

FREE SAMPLE: Write for free sample and a copy of our African Violet folder.

PLANT MARVEL
"Feed as you water"

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FLUORESCENT LIGHTS ON AND OFF**

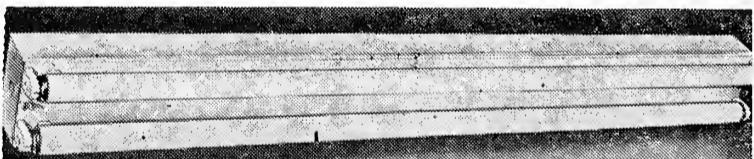
Turns anything electrical on and off. Set it in a jiffy for times to start and stop. Change setting whenever you wish, for 30-minute to 23½ hour operation. Starts and stops your radio, television, percolator, refrigerator, heating pad, fan, lights or anything electrical. Just plug in and use. Guaranteed. \$11.95 postpaid.

**DAY-LIGHT LAMP GROWS BETTER PLANTS
NO SUNLIGHT NEEDED**



No limit now to the number of plants you can grow. You'll have larger more beautiful blooms this way, too, because you can control the strength and period of light each day with fluorescent lighting. Plants grow faster, bloom sooner under fluorescent light. The Day-Light Lamp is specially selected for growing African Violets, Gloxinias and other house plants as well as for starting tomatoes and all vegetables and garden plants. Use the fixture with wing-reflector (illustrated above) to hang over tables or growing benches and the fixture illustrated below without wing-reflector in growing racks, bookshelves, pantry shelves, etc.

Wing-reflector is attractive design with lustrous gray exterior and baked white enamel reflecting surface which provides more light over larger area from higher point. Fixtures without wing-reflector are finished in Duorwhite enamel and face of fixture is a space-saving reflecting surface. All are 2-light fixtures drilled for attaching to racks or to hang from wire or chain. Fully equipped with pull-chain switch, 6' cord and plug. Ready to plug in and use. All for 110-120 volt Alternating Current only.



Day-Light Lamp with Wing-Reflector and 2 20-watt lights (10" wide, 6" high, 24" long) . . . \$13.95 ppd.

Day-Light Lamp with Wing-Reflector and 2 40-watt lights (12" wide, 7" high, 48" long) . . . \$19.95 ppd.

Day-Light Lamp without Wing-Reflector, lights not included (5" wide, 2¾" high, 24" long, for 2 20-watt lights) \$8.75 ppd.

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Time-All Automatic Timer Switch . . . \$11.95 ppd.

Quantity discounts for 3 or more items in this ad: 5% for 3, 10% for 6, 15% for 12. Mail your order. **FREE** with your order -- Illustrated 32-page catalog of **EXTRA FREE GIFTS** and unusual hard-to-find supplies!

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

P. O. BOX 810, MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS

NEW AFFILIATED

CHAPTERS

Dear Friends of Affiliated Chapters:-

I feel I can truly call you "Friends" for I have personally contacted at least fifty per cent of the Affiliated Chapters in the past two and one-half months of working with you.

Anyone interested in Qualifications for Affiliation and **Why We Should Affiliate** please read the March 1954 African Violet Magazine. We do sincerely hope that there are many Societies interested in becoming Affiliated with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. We are always most happy to help you to do so. This letter, however, is written directly to the Affiliated Chapters with the idea of trying to clarify some of the existing confusion.

As I have studied this so called confusion and tried to eliminate same I have drawn up a "REQUEST" sheet which I do hope will be helpful to all concerned.

It is as follows:

AFFILIATED CHAPTER CHAIRMAN
"REQUESTS" the following from each
AFFILIATED CHAPTER

OFFICERS PLEASE NOTE:-

1. Always mention your Chapter Name when writing me.
2. Be as prompt in making your annual payment of Chapter Membership dues as possible. A statement will be mailed thirty days prior to due date.
3. Please send me a list of your Officers immediately after your annual election, giving names, titles and addresses. Also any changes in membership list during the year. Please in every case designate those members of your local chapter which are also members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.
4. I have a copy of your Constitution and By-Laws so do not need another copy unless you revise same. However, do send me any amendments you may make during the year.
5. Please send all Affiliated Chapter material to me. Membership reports, checks and so forth.
6. Please call for the Affiliated Chapter Membership Report Blanks (green form) when you need them and at the same time please specify the number you would like to have.



Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman is:

GRACE ROWE
749 Columbia Street
Aurora, Illinois

7. Make all checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.
8. Please specify to whom you would like your Chapter African Violet Magazine mailed. P. S. I would like to suggest that this sheet be posted in your Officer's Record book for future reference. (Read it carefully).

I am mailing the above "Request" sheet out with each new Affiliated Chapter Charter and with each statement of due date.

My experience working on the records of the Affiliated Chapters has revealed to me some errors now in existence and if called to your attention should be eliminated.

Ten to fifteen per cent of the Affiliated Chapters are in arrears with their Chapter Membership fee. (Remember you pay \$2.50 per year for your Chapter Membership Affiliation.)

You do not keep your records which are filed with the Affiliated Chapter Chairman up to date as per number three on "Request" sheet. (Present officers not on file). This is bad. I mail out statements as per number two on "Request" sheet sometimes three of them at thirty day intervals but if I'm sending to a past officer perhaps they are no longer interested for although this statement goes out first class mail I have had none returned to me. Many times after three statements there will be no response. After a period of thirty days after due date the Chapter is withdrawn from Affiliation and then when the private membership renewal goes in for \$2.50 and is refused (Pay \$3.00 if not an Affiliated Chapter) then comes the check and apologies along with the statement that they had not received my notices. U. S. mail is dependable so my conclusion is a past officer is no longer interested.

Please therefore keep me up to date on your Officers and please be prompt in making your payment of Annual Chapter Membership dues.

Your second error is that you send your checks for Affiliated Chapters and Members direct to Myrtle Radtke, Treasurer. This causes delay and confusion. She is a dear and we all like her but write her a personal letter and send me, Affiliated Chapter Chairman, your checks.

Read my column carefully and let us get our Chapters out of the red.

You are a very sincere, co-operative and energetic (shows and so forth) group. I'm enjoying serving you. Let us continue having fun with our

precious African violets through our local Societies, Affiliated Chapters and the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Keep your letters friendly, I love them. Also remember I want to help each and every one of you in any way I can through our Affiliated Chapter work.

Very sincerely,
Grace Rowe

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

CARMEN CLUB OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
Mrs. Ralph J. Kunert, Pres.

1226 Ryan Ave.

St. Paul 13, Minn.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT SAINTPAULIA CLUB
Mrs. Ralph M. Filson, Pres.

855 Ridge Rd.

Wethersfield, Conn.

COLUMBIA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Mrs. R. H. Kleckley, Pres.

1023 Shull St.

West Columbia, S. C.

COUNTRY BELLES ST. LOUIS COUNTY CHAPTER 9
Mrs. R. A. Penrod, Pres.

717 Eunice

Webster Groves 19, Mo.

COUNTRY SIDE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
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Rt. 1, Box 293

McFarland, Wisc.

EVENING SUNSET AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB No. 11
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FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MUHLENBERG COUNTY, KENTUCKY
Mrs. Joseph E. Burks, Pres.

417 N. Cherry St.

Greenville, Ky.

FRIENDLY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. J. H. Meredith, Pres.

Shady Hills

Marion, Ind.

FRIENDSHIP AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Mrs. Clarence C. Cornell, Pres.

408½ Center Ave.

Decorah, Iowa

GYPSY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. Ruth Meyer, Pres.

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St. Paul, Minn.

INDEPENDENCE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Mrs. W. E. Johnson, Pres.

Box 484

Independence, Kans.

MARK TWAIN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Mr. John P. Griffen, Pres.

Box 402

Hannibal, Mo.

METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PEORIA
Mrs. Frank D. Hamerski, Pres.

108 Sherwood

Peoria, Ill.

NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. Frank Straight, Pres.

434 Briarwood Pl.

Highland Park, Ill.

OAKDALE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Mrs. Jerold Clifton, Pres.

109 Warrington Ave.

Oakdale, Calif.

PINK CHEER AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. Jane Cooper, Pres.

Rt. 1, Box 87

Clayton, Ind.

TE-O-GA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. Gladys DuPuis, Pres.

117 No. St.

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TWILIGHT AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB CHAPTER No. 10
Mrs. J. Broombaugh, Pres.

10215 St. Arthur

Overland 14, Mo.

TWILIGHT AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. Gordon Hawk, Pres.

234 Holmes Dr.

Fairborn, Ohio

SALINE SAINTPAULIA CLUB
Mrs. John Fahey, Pres.

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SOUTH BEND AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. L. H. Bishop, Pres.

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THE END

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Will pay up to \$3.00

PLEASE CONTACT ME BEFORE SENDING ISSUE

MRS. A. R. BELLERUE

505 Tedemory Drive

Whitter, California

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Miller's GREENPLAST 110 for \$1.00

INSECTICIDES

NNOR 6-oz. \$1.35

Sodium Selenate 12 caps \$1.00

Lindane 1-lb. \$1.10

Soilene 8-oz. \$1.00

Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.

FUNGICIDES

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Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Lime-stone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

SPONGE-ROK ½ bu. \$2.75 ppd.

GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

OTHER ITEMS

Metal foil, Vitamin B₁, pots, (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, sprayers, etc.

Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List of supplies also. -- No plants shipped.

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Layton's Lake, R. D.

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

S. grotei (climber) and S. magungensis (creeper). Also S. tongwensis and S. orbicularis. These species ready for shipment after April 15. Healthy vigorous plants from 2-inch pots @ \$2.50 each. 50¢ extra if mailed via air.

LAKEVIEW GARDENS

BOX 20-M

FENTON, MICHIGAN



QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

At this time I think that I shall change the procedure and give you some answers before we proceed to the questions. Many times it would seem that the answers are few and far between but that is not always the case as you will see when you read Mrs. Wicks letter. Many of the questions are answered direct to the person having the problem and if all of them are as happy as Mrs. Wicks I am sure that we all will try and contribute our share of experiences with our beloved Saintpaulias.

December Questions Answered

From Mrs. E. J. Wick, Jr., Miami, Fla.

Sometime ago, I believe last September, I wrote for help for my African violets. I tried to make a long story short which is hard to do with trouble. However, through your kindness of printing my story, several ladies were kind enough to write me offering sympathy and desiring to see how I made out. One wonderful lady, Mrs. Leo Spengler, Orlando, Florida, did more than one could expect from any Good Samaritan. She wrote me pages of advice and her own recipe for soil, how to care for them and every little detail clearly and fully explained. Thanks to such a grand person, I am restoring my collection. I shall never be able to repay Mrs. Spengler for her help. This busy lady has her own greenhouse and slat house for commercial purposes but found time to aid a distressed African Violet Society member. I think there should be a medal for such magnanimous people.

Thank you for your letter Mrs. Wick.

To Mrs. Henry Slade, Jr., Dekalb, Ill.

I raise violets from seed (did my own crossing this year and seem to have some very lovely, interesting foliage on the little fellows and some with pink and red backs to the foliage). I never seem to have any trouble losing this pretty coloring on the backs of the foliage, probably due to the feeding of my plants. I have used the Atlas Fish Emulsion for two years now and am very pleased with the results. I use one fourth tea-spoon of the liquid fertilizer to one quart of warm water every two weeks. Of course, the soil in the pots should be moist before fertilizing. I usually water the plants well the night before and then fertilize the following morning. Then I give each plant about two tablespoons of the mixture and follow this routine every two weeks. The foliage is beautiful and distinctive. I know

that a friend who has some of the same varieties that I have -- well her "boy" plants all look exactly alike as far as the foliage goes while mine show the distinctive characteristics of each, which I think is due to my method of fertilizing.

Mrs. Joe Reister, Ashland, Ore.

To Mrs. Mae Sterling, Philadelphia, Penna.

I have done a little work with Colchicine, not much, but these were my results. As you probably know, Colchicine causes many fatalities and you have to have a lot of patience as it slows up growth immensely when it does not kill. I used the salve on a whole flock of leaves and saved only one. When I used the salve, this is the method I followed. Place your leaves into water and leave them there until they start forming a ridge on the end of the petiole and it looks as though the roots would start growing. With a toothpick I smeared very lightly some of the salve on this little ridge where you would expect the baby plantlets to sprout from. Then plant as you do all your leaves. It will be a long time before you get any results but they may be worth it. It depends on how many layers of the structure of the plant are penetrated by the Colchicine as to how pronounced the change in the resultant plant will be. I used the salve on a Fantasy leaf. The resultant plant has much larger foliage, an immense blue frilly bloom that measures about one and three fourth inches across. Changed the color of the bloom, but it is beautiful. Have not started any leaves off of it yet but will next spring.

In using the liquid, I followed the following method: Take seedlings when very small, just four leaves. I wrapped a little cotton over the roots, carefully wrapped a thread around cotton and in between the little leaves so plantlet would not drop out. I then put some of the liquid Colchicine into a vial, dropped in the plantlet so that the plantlet but not the roots was immersed in the liquid, with the end of the long thread hanging out over the edge of the vial. I then lightly put in the cork just to hold the thread in place so that the plantlet would not drop in too far. Ever so often I took out the cork to let in air. I immersed one for fifty-eight hours and that one lived. The other I immersed for seventy-three hours but guess that was too long as I lost one. The foliage is beautiful but very stiff and brittle. That was last year. This year I immersed two for sixty-six hours. They are still

small and have not bloomed. The third came out looking almost like Azure Beauty from a plantlet of a double red. This one was immersed only fifty-eight hours.

This has been my experience. Would like to hear of experience of others.

Mrs. Joe Reister, Ashland, Ore.

September Questions Answered

To Mrs. Ed Mahley, Caffeyville, Kans.

Any used soil which might contain fungicide or insecticide can be toxic to plants if steam sterilized.

F. D. Richter, Hammond, Ind.

To Mrs. Edw. G. Burr, Flushing, N. Y.

To the question regarding crown rot. We do not claim to have the answer to the crown rot problem, but we have found from several hundred soil tests that if the pH of the soil is 6 to 6.4, it is too acid for African violets, and the plants are very susceptible to crown rot. At pH of from 6.4 to 6.6 the plant will live and bloom sparsely, from two to four flowers per stem. At pH of from 6.8 to 7 the plants will produce from four to twenty-two flowers per stem, and will be quite resistant to crown rot.

F. D. Richter, Hammond, Ind.

Q: I am a violet collector too. I'd like to get some information as to where I can get Snow Lace, the pure white miniature.

Ethel Kirsling, Appleton, Wis.

A: One of my friends is collecting miniatures and she bought her Snow Lace from Helen Po-churek. If any one knows of someone specializing in miniatures would be glad to hear from you.

Q: I would like to know if there is a handbook out with the pictures of the leaves and flowers so one could identify some of those one receives without labels or names. I have one now that has a leaf similar in shape and texture (it is very waxy) of the house begonia. It looks like a miniature plant. It is about three to four inches in diameter and has buds. If anyone knows what this is I would appreciate hearing from them.

I have another problem. I got a leaf labeled Pauline, it was a very large girl foliage and now I have a small plant about two and one half inches in diameter. It has from ten to twelve leaves but it is not girl foliage. Can anyone tell me what happened?

Frances W. Pells, Lannon, Wis.

A: In answering the second question the plant may have reverted back to a parent that didn't have "girl" foliage. Maybe some of our readers will be able to help you out.

Q: (This letter was written to Mrs. Wright and the writer gave permission to use it in this column).

With envy, I treasure both September 1953, Volume 7, No. 1, and December 1953, Volume 7, No. 2, African Violet Magazines because your own African violet plants in bloom are on the covers. I have never seen anything so "Beauti-

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SHOW CLOUD
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SHOW EMPRESS
SHOW GLOW
SHOW LADY
SHOW MAN
SHOW PINK (50¢ each)
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SHOW SENSATION
SNOWSCAPE
SHOW STARTLER
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FLUFFY LADY
FROSTY NITE
GENEVA BEAUTY
IMPROVED RED GENEVA
IOWA
JULIET
ORCHID EDGE
PANSY
SNOW LINE
SUGAR PLUM GIRL
SUN DANCE
VARIEGATTA
WHITE MADONNA
WINTRY NIGHT
WINTERGREEN

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Also, refer to my advertisement on pages 4 and 5 of the March issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE for other information.

HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. WH

WARSAW, N. Y.

If you haven't got my price list 1954 WR (my wholesale list of plants), please write for it. The SHOW SERIES plants will be ready for wholesale shipment on July 1st.



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ful." The reason for this letter is: Your "Double Margaret," especially -- my own plant is three years old -- and never has it really bloomed. The buds just don't open, and the plant is just loaded with buds. I would like to know your secret, just what is it you do to make her bloom? My Azure Beauty, also Orchid Sunset which are doubles bloom for me nicely, but not Double Margaret. The same soil is used for all of my African violets. I keep them rather moist, and have them in a south window.

Stella Lavengood, Hillside, Ill.

A: Has anyone else had similar experiences with their Double Margaret? Those that I have seen seem to bloom very freely.

Q: Will you please tell me why my Sailor's Delight is a dark blue purple color and not a light blue, same as Sailor Girl? It is beautiful, although I'm disappointed now that I know it should be the same color as Sailor Girl.

Stella Lavengood, Hillside, Ill.

A: It might be some other plant with the wrong name or it could be that your Sailor's Delight is acting up as some of them will do once in awhile. You didn't mention if this was the first blooming period.

Q: Can you tell me why some of the plants I grow from rooting leaves seem to have such a weak root system? They topple over and seem to be growing by almost no roots at all. Others have a good solid root system. They seem to be free from disease and growing well. I was using quite a rich soil mixture for the young plants for awhile. Do you suppose that is the cause? Now I have switched to a mixture of vermiculite, sand and leaf mold for the new plants. In this new batch, so far, I have noticed no weak ones.

Mrs. Reba E. Brennan, Riverhead, L. I., N. Y.

A: There are a few growers that advocate a rich soil for small plants but the majority seem to favor a mixture similar to the one that you are using now. After they get a good start and really start showing new growth is plenty of time to give them a rich soil mixture. Also too much fertilizer when they are in the weak stages doesn't help the root system.

Q: I have some seed pods which I have grown on my violets. What do I do to them after they have dried on the plant? Does growing seeds hinder the plant from blooming as much as it would without them?

Mrs. Carl Funk, Chicago, Ill.

A: After seed pod and stem look dry take it off carefully and "cure" it by placing in a dish in a warm dry place for two or three weeks. Then open carefully on white paper and plant on moist medium. Do not cover with soil. Most plants will continue to bloom if they are in a blooming mood whether or not there is a seed pod present. I have seen lots of bloom and several seed pods on the same plant.

Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

Q: What causes powdery mildew in the winter time? I get it on plants in the big den so it might be lack of moving air. The room is warm but very dry -- exceptionally low humidity.

Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

A: It is the lack of fresh air that seems to cause mildew. Generally it comes when the plants are raised in the cellar where it is a little on the damp side and no circulation of air. Apparently it will appear either dry or damp if the air isn't circulating.

Q: Please put an S. O. S. in your column. My Episcias and Nagelias all get dry brown tips on leaves -- the leaf eventually gets all brown and dry and dies. Humidity runs forty to fifty per cent.

Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

A: Please, someone that has had this trouble and found out what to do let me know so that we can help Vera.

Q: I would appreciate it very much if you would help me with my violets. I can not get rid of mildew. I have used sulphur. I grow my violets under a fluorescent light and my tray is enclosed on the sides. I installed an electric fan to help circulate the air.

Mrs. G. Bidgood, Hamilton, Ontario, Can.

A: While the fan will circulate the air that is around your trays are you sure that the plants are getting any fresh air in the process? Circulating dead or stale air would not improve your condition.

Q: Are there back issues of the Magazine that show the different type leaves of the African violets? I have been given some, exchanged leaves, bought some and nearly every way to get my twenty different kinds but find when some bloom they are identical to others. Some are named alike but the leaves are different like the DuPonts, Neptunes, Girls, etc. I would like to see

the different leaf types in drawings or pictures and names of family. Is it possible to have this in an issue of the Magazine as I have talked with so many who have this same question?

Mrs. Hilaire N. Paquette, Faribault, Minn.

A: There have been many books published giving descriptions of leaves and blossoms. Helen Van Pelt Wilson, Montague Free and Carolyn Rector have books that I am sure that you can obtain from your local library. These are especially good and I have read them so know that you will enjoy reading them. There are other books and pamphlets out and if anyone likes some particular book please write to me so that I can keep a list and have it available when others write in for information.

Q: I am rather new at growing African violets. Just became interested about a year ago. I raise plants both in the basement with lights and in various windows. I have been having trouble with a plant, seemingly healthy, developing soft brown spot on leaf blade which spreads rapidly to the entire leaf. Sometimes this acts as dry rot, then it progresses slowly. Plants in various places become affected even though they have no contact with each other. When I remove the leaf the petiole looks perfectly healthy. I have sprayed with Bordeaux on the advice of our Agricultural College but I can't say it helps much. In some cases removing the leaf leaves a healthy plant. In other cases several leaves become infected at once.

I also have another problem which may or may not be connected with the first. The center of a healthy plant will begin to turn white or

WRITE FOR OUR 1954 CATALOGUE OF 225
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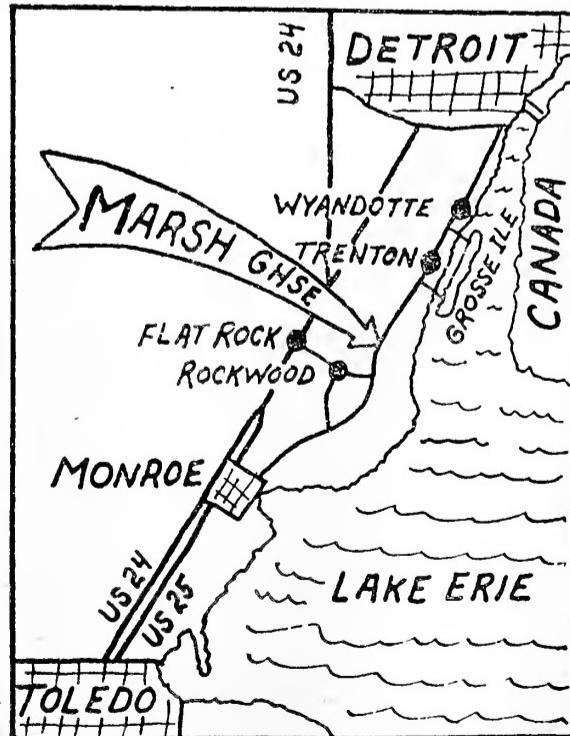
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gray, dry up or quit growing; the rest of the plant appears to be all right. Our state pathology department examined one for me and could find no evidence of insects. I spray with NNOR and Viogen spray. Some plants are raised in Black Magic and some in "store violet soil." I have used various fertilizers. Members of the local violet club that I have contacted say they have had no such problems.

Mrs. Elvin Schultz, Beatrice, Nebr.

A: Sometimes older plants shed their leaves and seem to do it in the way that you described by first getting soft brown spots on their leaves. When one leaf does this it doesn't worry me but when several do it I feel that something is wrong with the root system and remove the plant from the pot and wash the dirt from the roots for closer examination. Invariably you won't have to examine too far as you will probably find that the root system has sort of disappeared. Clean off any brown parts that look unhealthy and try re-rooting the plant in your favorite way.

In the case where your centers dry up and turn white or gray I am wondering if you might have left some of the spray in the center of the plant. When spraying plants the spray has a tendency to run from the upper leaves and collect

in the center and it is best to remove the excess with a cleansing tissue so that either water or the chemical will not remain in the center for too long.

Q: I have two African violet plants which have dark brown spots. I don't believe they are water spots. They are much darker than this. I have looked it up in two books but it doesn't seem to be an insect. African violets have become a hobby to me for the past six months. I have over one hundred plants so you see why I want to combat this trouble early.

Miss Gladys Hobson, Alamo, Calif.

A: You didn't mention the size of the spots but it could be from spraying with too strong a solution of some insecticide. I have had this happen when I have purchased plants from a greenhouse that has just completed their spraying program.

Q: Enclosed are two African violet leaves. I am wondering if you would be able to determine what is wrong with the plants from which they are taken. The leaf marked No. 1 is from my collection. A number of my plants are affected as the enclosed leaf. Some time ago I bought a number of small plants from a wholesale house

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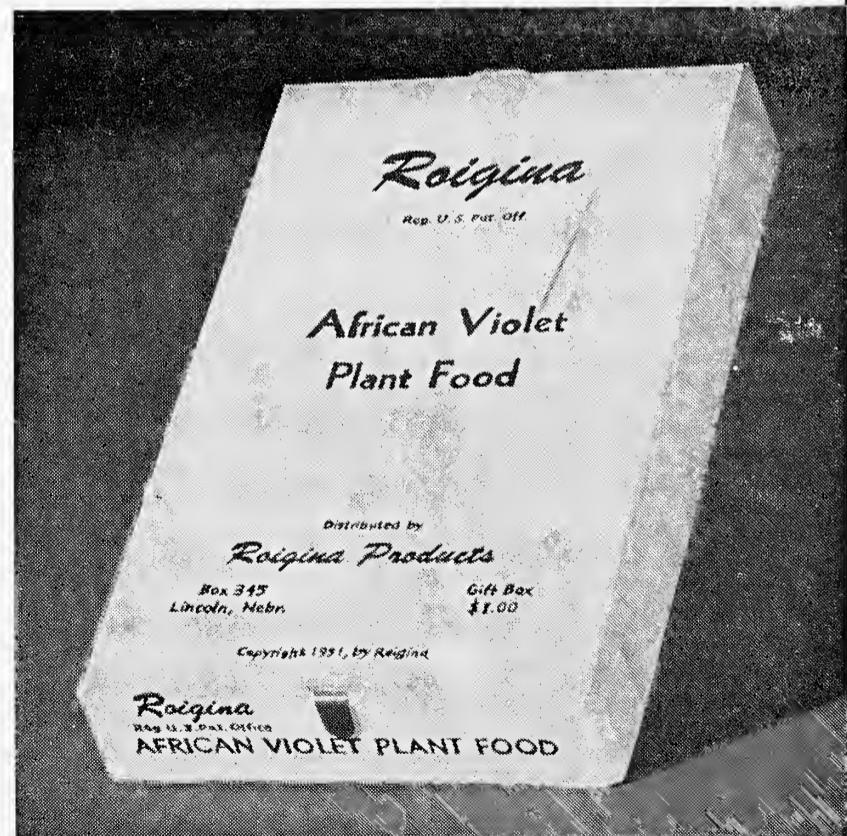
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and the leaves of most of them are affected. The condition seems to be spreading. The leaf marked No. 2 is from a friend's collection. Most of her plants have the condition you can see on this leaf.

VeLaura L. Meyers, Marshfield, Wis.

A: Your letter came in January and now at the first of March both leaves are still crisp and rooting in water. Upon examination I believe that they have been burned with too strong a spray. Yours that came from the greenhouse might very well have just been sprayed before you purchased them and that is why it has been developing after you got them home. Ask your friend if she sprays hers often as this could be the reason her leaf was so marred. I do not mean to imply that spraying is not good but be sure and follow directions and do not get it too strong and be sure and keep the plants where they will be warm and not in sunlight after their spraying.

To Mrs. Slade, DeKalb, Ill. (Dec. Issue)

I am a newcomer to the African Violet Society, although I have tried to raise them for four years. Last year I had about eighty plants, looked healthy and would have buds and all of a sudden the buds and plants dried up. I was very discouraged and had decided to dispose of them but when you start them from leaves it's just like a youngster growing, you watch over them and hate to get rid of them. I had them in the dining room, three windows in the south and three in the west. Used glass curtains and had a wide eave so they would not get the direct sun. Then we moved in the middle of September and the rooms were smaller and I had no room for them upstairs as the youngsters would knock them down, so I put them in the basement. I figured it was the only place and if they did not

do good there I just had no alternative but to dispose of them. My husband picked up a fluorescent light and put it up for me, that was about the tenth of November and I wish you could see my plants now. I was worried from the beginning because the temperature never got above sixty-four. It ranges from fifty-four to sixty-four and usually is about sixty, but that is the reason I believe I have so many red backed leaf plants. I don't remember the mother leaves being red backed but sixty per cent of mine have red backs, even the Blue Ice has a red back. I have several varieties that I have obtained from a friend here in the village and her leaves are green backed and mine are red so I believe that if you will keep a few at lower temperatures they may turn red again.

Frances M. Pells, Lannon, Wis.

I want to thank again those kind people that have taken the time to answer some of our questions. Keep up the good work.

Lois S. Minehan

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We have a fine group of violet seedlings on the benches now from our own hybridizing, and are selecting the "cream of the crop" for further propagation. Improved foliage and huge flowers, as well as many interesting doubles, are on the way. Watch for our future introductions!

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REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period December 15, 1953 to March 26, 1954.

PLANTS AND REGISTRANT

Alice Blue Double 2-15-54

Alice Dumon
11141 Morang Drive
Detroit 24, Michigan

Baltic Sea 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Bavaria 12-31-53

Behnke Nurseries
Wash.-Balto. Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland

Blue Devil 2-25-54

Alice Dumon
11141 Morang Drive
Detroit 24, Michigan

Blue Ridge 12-31-53

Behnke Nurseries
Wash.-Balto. Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland

Blue Sail 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Blue Valley 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Bridal Veil 1-6-54

Shaffer's Tropical Gardens
1220 41st Avenue
Santa Cruz, California

Chicapee 2-22-54

Mrs. Philip B. Cole
12808 Baker Drive, Meadowood
Silver Spring, Maryland

Clover 2-25-54

Alice Dumon
11141 Morang Drive
Detroit 24, Michigan

Crimson Lake 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Finlandia 12-31-53

Behnke Nurseries
Wash.-Balto. Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland

Floradora 12-31-53

Behnke Nurseries
Wash.-Balto. Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland

Garnet Girl 1-6-54

Shaffer's Tropical Gardens
1220 41st Avenue
Santa Cruz, California

Honey Girl 2-27-54

Mrs. Mae Ritchhart
4301 - 11th Street
Des Moines, Iowa

Lady Pearl 3-26-54

Mrs. E. H. Schwier
1016 South Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Lavender-Pink Girl 2-19-54

Mrs. Edith Lundberg
1005 Fourth Street
La Salle, Illinois

Leota Belle 2-12-54

Gambles' African Violet Center
1417 Stophlet Street
Ft. Wayne 6, Indiana

Lilac Time 12-31-53

Behnke Nurseries
Wash.-Balto. Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland

Main's Melanie 6-30-53

Mrs. Ava Main
424 N. Cedar
Monticello, Iowa

Miss Hammond 12-28-53

Mrs. R. Goins
7441 Jackson Avenue
Hammond, Indiana

Mohawk 2-22-54

Mrs. Philip B. Cole
12808 Baker Drive, Meadowood
Silver Spring, Maryland

Morning Girl 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Pearl Drop 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Purple Trapunto 2-22-54

Mrs. Philip B. Cole
12808 Baker Drive, Meadowood
Silver Spring, Maryland

Queen Biruta 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Roehrs Lilac 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Roehrs Rose 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Romance 1-6-54

Shaffer's Tropical Gardens
1220 41st Avenue
Santa Cruz, California

Silver Beauty 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Smoky 12-26-53

Mrs. Ray Rivenburg
24 Highland Avenue
Fort Johnson, New York

Spring Sky 1-14-54

Julius Roehrs Company
Paterson Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

Tufted Beauty 1-6-54

Shaffer's Tropical Gardens
1220 41st Avenue
Santa Cruz, California

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period:

All It Girl
Bantam
Baroness
Blue Temptation
Calumet Queen
Calumet Rose
Clarice
Congo King
Cream Delight
Dark Burma
Double Beauty
Exclusive Queen
Fabulous
Fire Fly
Galloways Ecstasy
Galloways Monarch
Galloways Rhapsody
Glacier Beauty Double
Grand Slam
Merry Widow
Orchid Triumph
Pace Setter

Red Tempest
Perpetual Snow
Pewee
Pink Lad
Pink Vivacious
Purity Blue
Quilted Azure
Remembrance
Rose Dream
Royal Scot Supreme
Sapphire Triumph
Shine Boy
Siren Queen
Snow King
Sombrelena Girl
Spanish Lace
Spanish Shawl
Sultan's Choice
Tokay
Yankeemiss
Zodiac Girl

PART III

Correction: Due to a printer's error one plant was improperly credited in the September 1953 report. THISTLE was printed as a registration by Fischer Flowers, Linwood, New Jersey, whereas it should have appeared as registered by Mrs. Lela Reichert, 3114 Charles Street, Omaha 2, Nebraska.

PART IV**FAREWELL**

This is the last Registration Report that I will prepare as Registrar. Before this is published Mr. Phil Libby, 1508 Hamilton Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin, will have taken over as the new Registrar, and all records will have been transferred to him. All registration correspondence should be addressed to him in the future.

The registration work is very demanding, both as to requirements for immediate attention and detailed follow-through. Any interruption in routine handling results in snow-balling complications. For several months last summer and fall a series of emergencies kept me from all routine. The resulting log-jam took months to unsnarl and the job is still (March 26, 1954) not completely done. Meanwhile many people did not get the service from Registration that they have a right to expect. The work is too important to allow a condition of this kind to exist repetitively but the limited time I have available makes it likely that this condition could occur again. Reluctantly I reached the conclusion that it was in the best interest of the Society to request Mrs. Magill to appoint a new Registrar.

It is with extreme regret that I am leaving the job. I think that my years of experience as Registrar during the exploratory period of African Violet Registration has given me a knowledge of what Registration can do (and cannot do) that is a valuable asset of the Society. This experience has also given me a vision of the tremendous possibilities of service to the Society that could be attained by expanding and ramifying the registration function. I am sorry that I, myself, cannot foresee any possibility of having the time to participate in that expansion and ramifications.

I want to thank the many people who have written letters of appreciation or gratitude. Even when the writers disagreed with some practice, procedure, or detail, they generally found a way to say something nice or complimentary. There have been a few nasty letters (some of them, unfortunately, deserved) but for every letter of this kind there have been a dozen that were a pleasure to read. Thanks so much.

In closing, I want to request cooperation with the new Registrar. His task will be difficult; Society membership can help materially by not making their demands too insistent until he has time to familiarize himself with the various routines.

THE END

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Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1; for June, March 1st.

ST LOUIS MISSOURI

The Viking Club of the African Violet Society of St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri, held its November meeting at the home of Mrs. R. L. Willis, St. Louis.

The following new officers were elected for the year 1954:

President,	Mrs. F. D. Wayman
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. A. R. Stutko
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. A. P. Bofinger
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Wm. Nolte
Treasurer,	Mrs. D. W. Goode

The members have been meeting every month at the homes of the members, but enthusiasm is building up to where they are asking for monthly meetings.

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

The Neptune Chapter of the African Violet Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana, elected the following officers for 1954:

President,	Mrs. A. D. Hellwig
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Leslie Wilson
Secretary,	Mrs. O. O. Goddard
Treasurer,	Mrs. Charles Merz

Neptune Chapter will be five years old in October.

AURORA ILLINOIS

The Admiral Branch, African Violet Society of America, Inc., has planned its new year book as a dedication to Mrs. E. G. Magill, sponsor and organizer of the club and former president. A special issue of the program booklet issued to members, is bound with white ribbon in a white suede paper cover handpainted by Miss Nina Head of Aurora.

Officers for the coming year are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Samuel Rowe
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John Doppelhammer, Jr.
Secretary,	Mrs. Murley Wheeler
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wm. Rogers
Historian,	Mrs. Edward Commes
Librarian,	Mrs. Robert Spence

The fourth Birthday Party of the club was held at Freden's in Hinsdale on September 25th. Special honors were given to Mrs. E. G. Magill because of her new office as president elect of the National Society. She was given the new patented plant Pine Wonder as a memento. Mrs. Arthur Giddings of Downers Grove gave a book review of "The Gilded Lily," which she wrote in conjunction with her husband.

YORK PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of York, Pennsylvania, held their election of officers on December 12, 1953, and the following were elected to office for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Harry Heindel
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Robert Zuch
Secretary,	Mrs. Russell Miller
Treasurer,	Mrs. Winifred Frey

TWIN FALLS IDAHO

The Magic Valley Saintpaulia Club of Twin Falls, Idaho, met at the Park Hotel for a luncheon on January 4, 1954. The following officers were installed for the year:

President,	Mrs. W. L. Chaney
Vice-Pres.,	Miss Juanita Sutcliff
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Lloyd E. Mason

The Violet Pin was presented to the retiring president, Mrs. Kenneth Hodder, who has served the club for two years. Much of our interest in African violets is due to the happy enthusiasm of her, our first president.

BEAN CREEK VALLEY CLUB

The Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club met at the home of Mrs. Leslie Britten on October 24, 1953, with seven members present.

There was an election of officers with the following being elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Robert Cunningham
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Winifred Clement
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Leslie Britten

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

The Indianapolis Indiana African Violet Club, Chapter 1, celebrated its third birthday on February 12, 1954, in Holcomb Garden House at Butler University. The founders were honored with a candle-light service and a tea. Colored slides were shown of the 1953 National Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Hostesses were Mrs. Chellah Shideler, Mrs. Nick Suding, Mrs. John Pope, Mrs. Melvin Shepard and Mrs. Ralph Bidgood.

On December 11, 1953, the club had as their honored guest Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, Illinois, National president elect. A luncheon at the Hawthorne Room was attended by the members

and their guests after which the meeting was held in the auditorium of the Indiana World War Memorial. Mrs. Magill talked on "Yours, Mine and Ours," club affiliations and answered questions asked by the audience on soil, cultivation and diseases.

The Christmas project for the club was distributing violet plants among the patients in the Messer Nursing Home.

Mrs. Melvin Shepard is Sunshine chairman and Mrs. Chellah Shideler is Chapter president.

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

A general meeting of all members of the St. Louis and St. Louis County Council, African Violet Societies of America, Inc., was held in the club rooms of Stix, Baer and Fuller, St. Louis, Missouri, on Monday February 8, 1954.

Mrs. E. A. Zimmerman, council president, presiding.

New officers for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. F. D. Wayman Viking Chapter No. 2
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. L. Del Porte Amethyst Chapter No. 4
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. A. Penrod County Belles Chapter No. 9
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. Conrad Greater St. Louis Chapt. No. 8
Treasurer,	Mrs. B. M. Champion Ionantha Chapter No. 6

KNOXVILLE TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Valley African Violet Club has completed a most successful year. With the untiring work of our splendid officers and various chairmen and their committees our club has advanced most favorably.

Our program chairman, Mrs. J. B. Harris, and her committee has provided us with most interesting as well as informative programs.

Our annual picnic is always fun as we return to our little girl selves and devour dozens of ice cream cones, and foot races and jumping rope contests are performed as skillfully as any ten year old -- or almost.

What could be more exciting or challenging than the hard work and preparation and fellowship necessary for planning a competitive show, down to the least detail. In spite of unfavorable weather conditions, our violets appeared well groomed, and we had a beautiful as well as a successful show. There was an abundance of violets, old and new varieties in every sort of setting and all kinds of containers, from an immense antique bread trough down to the tiniest bassinet for miniatures. It's needless to add our members were delighted with their well deserved awards and ribbons.

We take great pride in our benefit party. We always try to have a beautiful display of violets

to add interest to this event. We are happy to contribute the proceeds from our party to our welfare projects.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding events of the year is our president's luncheon, at which time we honor our president. Our club presented our president, Mrs. L. Johnson, with a beautiful silver tray, also many expressions of appreciation and love. This year our social chairman, Mrs. George Gloff, and her committee used the Valentine Day decorations and the tables were charming. Each club member had a cherished African violet leaf tucked in a little red heart as a favor.

"FERNE FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS"

Announcing I have moved from Des Moines to Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Home after July 1st -- Visitors Welcome

FERNE V. KELLAR

827 N. Main Street

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

North end of town on Highway U. S. 11

BOYCE M. EDENS

Plant named in honor of Mr. Edens now available -- \$2.50 each. Include 50¢ for postage, extra charge for air mail and special delivery if desired.

PITTSBURGH SHOW -- I am offering a \$25.00 Cash Award for the best Boyce M. Edens plant in the 1955 Show.

Leaves of Blush BiColor, Chieftan, \$1.00 each

NO ORDERS LESS THAN \$3.00

MRS. SAM NICHOLS

246 Madison Blvd.

Madison, Tenn.

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2021 Union, S. E., Ch 3-6651, Grand Rapids, Mich.

WINDOVER FLOWER POTS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

Medium red color -- new stepped design as pictured -- unequalled for quality. Edges specially treated to protect stems and leaves of your plants. Customers say: "I like them better than any I have ever seen!"

1½ inch starting pots	— 36 for \$2.20
2 inch starting pots	— 30 for 2.20
2½ inch starting pots	— 24 for 2.20
3 inch squatly pots	— 14 for 2.20
4 inch squatly pots	— 10 for 2.20
5 inch squatly pots	— 6 for 2.20
3 inch semi-squatly	— 14 for 2.20
5 inch semi-squatly	— 6 for 2.20

The following size pots now also available in color: green, yellow, white or red baked-on enamel -- may be assorted:

3 inch semi-squatly	— 10 for \$2.20
4 inch squatly	— 8 for 2.20

All pots listed are stepped design except 5" semi-squatly which have straight sides. All have treated edges. We replace any pots broken in shipment. Write for quantity prices.

WINDOVER POTTING SOIL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Made with flaky leafmold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, wood-ashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Will not pack. Sterilized with LARVACIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles. Write for special quantity prices.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85
COARSE VERMICULITE (ZONOLITE) preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves: 8 qts. \$1.00, 24 qts. \$2.00.
LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4½ inch, 75 for \$1.00, 100 for \$1.25, 500 for \$5.00.
EVERMARK LABEL PENCILS, made especially for writing on all plant labels 20¢ each.

EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER
For western shipments, write for amount of extra postage needed from Denver to you. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s.

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VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE RIGHT DOWN TOWN OPPOSITE POST OFFICE SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

CHERIE (Granger's) — lovely large "red", deeply frilled.

FLEUR PETITE — fringed sweet pea bloom; girl foliage.

MINE ALONE — huge dark double, girl foliage; very fine.

DOUBLE CALIFORNIA DARK PLUM — fine new double "red".

QUEEN'S CUSHION — Ulery's brand new release. A magnificent big puffy double in violet-orchid tones; simply out of this world!

Only rooted leaves of above, 75¢ each; no plants.

MINIMUM ORDER \$5.00 PLUS POSTAGE HELP — WE SPECIALIZE IN QUALITY CUTTINGS —

ST. JOSEPH MISSOURI

The Missouri Valley African Violet Society of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Vicinity elected the following officers for 1954:

President,
1st Vice-Pres.,
2nd Vice-Pres.,
Rec. Secy.,
Corres. Secy.,
Treasurer,
Asst. Treas.,

Mrs. Benton Garner
Mrs. Leo Beck
Mrs. W. E. Byous
Mrs. Marjorie Phillips
Mrs. Tom Hart
Mrs. Ferd Flach
Mrs. V. J. Gibbons

DAYTON OHIO

The Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton, Ohio, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,
Vice-Pres.,
Secretary,
Treasurer,

Mrs. B. B. Kanorr
Mrs. Robert Garver
Mrs. Walter Hofferberth
Mrs. Wm. Weiss

GLENDALE CALIFORNIA

The Glendale California Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was organized in July, 1952 with a membership of twelve. There are now thirty-five members and many more who are interested in joining.

The following officers were recently elected and installed by Mrs. William Stone of the San Gabriel Valley Chapter:

President,
1st Vice-Pres.,
2nd Vice-Pres.,
Treasurer,
Rec. Secy.,
Corres. Secy.,

Mrs. Ethel Miller
Mrs. Jessie Post
Mrs. Louise Hart
Mrs. Winifred Tait
Mrs. Josephine Litton
Mrs. Helen Fox

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

The Baltimore, Maryland, West End African Violet Club met at the home of Mrs. Mary Hines on February 3, 1954, for the monthly meeting at which time the following officers were elected for 1954:

President,
Vice-Pres.,
Secretary,
Treasurer,

Mrs. Marie Tarr
Mrs. Betty Tarsey
Mrs. Erma Shears
Mrs. Kathryn Barnes

The club holds its meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at the homes of the members. There are seventeen members of which fourteen are also members of the National Society.

SOUTH BEND INDIANA

The newly organized South Bend African Violet Club of South Bend, Indiana, meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p. m. in the members' homes.

We are proud to say that we are ninety-nine per cent members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

The officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. L. H. Bishop
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. George DiVine
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Harry Markiwicz

BLISS IDAHO

The Bliss Saintpaulia Club of Bliss, Idaho, was organized on May 27, 1953, at the home of Mrs. Opal Gridley. There are now fourteen members.

The following officers were elected and have since been re-elected for the year 1954:

President,	Mrs. Opal Gridley
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Ethel Robbins

A constitution was formed and meetings are held in the homes of the members on the last Wednesday of each month.

LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

The African Violet Society of Louisville, Kentucky, Unit No. 2, would like to present the following officers for the year 1954:

President,	Mrs. J. Y. Hubbard
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. W. Slack
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. James T. Healy
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Marvin Ash
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. M. Bettem
Historian,	Mrs. B. A. Rogers

Club membership is limited to twelve members, eleven of whom belong to the National Society. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month in the homes of the members.

SALEM OREGON

The Salem Oregon African Violet Club elected the following officers for the year 1953-1954:

President,	Mrs. W. A. Bauman
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. A. C. Newell
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Vivian Hoenig
Librarian,	Mrs. S. Gaiser

The meetings are held at 7:30 every third Thursday evening in the homes of the members. The group is limited to twenty-five members.

Just recently the club joined the Salem Garden Council which comprises members of all garden clubs in and around Salem.

LA VERNE CALIFORNIA

The Pomona Valley African Violet Society installed their new officers at their regular monthly meeting October 19, 1953. A specially prepared initiation service using African violets as the theme was written by Rev. Miles Dawson.

"NOBODY LOVES A African SHRINKING VIOLET"

You'll never know how beautiful your Saintpaulias can be until you give them the absolute protection they need against insects. Impossible, you say?

Not at all. But there is a danger that by the time you discover these minute, insidious pests the leaves may curl, small white cotton masses appear, plants shrivel and blooms stop. And "nobody loves a shrinking violet"—not even a shrinking African Violet! But the symptoms and hideous results often are easier to detect than the causes themselves.

For instance, mealy bugs are but a small fraction of an inch long. And the devastating cyclemen mite and broad mite are invisible to the naked eye! They frequent the junction between the stalk and leaf—and feed on the underside of the leaf. Fortunately, they can be easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray—the special "ogen" insecticide that is so popular with both professional and amateur African Violet growers alike. As it is an ovicide, Marvel Spray penetrates the waxy shells of these persistent enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Manufacturing Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose GROW-ers"). 5614-64 Ogen Building, Beacon, New York.

MARVEL Spray

FERTOSAN

compost accelerator . . .

For one dollar and one ton of your garden waste and leaves you can have the finest potting soil possible.

Contains bacteria that thrives on the fungus and spore disease.

Made in England -- Sold around the world. Keeps the soil physically fit -- organically balanced and biologically active.

Packet to treat one ton compost, \$1.00
4 tons \$2.65 -- 8 tons \$4.95 -- 12 tons \$7.20
20 tons \$11.00

At your dealers or order direct—

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Stop and see us this summer!

We have many Convention varieties on display and being propagated for you.

**ALSO OVER 600 VARIETIES
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Golden, Colorado

(4 miles west of Arvada on Hiway 72)

White Madonna or a Substitute

It has been brought to our attention that numerous substitutions have been sold and represented as White Madonna. May we, as the originators of the White Madonna, say that in over 50,000 plants we have yet to find the first one that does not have a **PURE WHITE** double bloom. Look at your blossoms very carefully when purchasing White Madonna, and if there is any color in the center, you are being offered a **SUBSTITUTE** and not the true White Madonna.

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Phone Sharon Center 9300

Sorry -- no retail mail orders. Greenhouses open for retail trade. Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Located one mile east of Granger School off Route No. 94.

Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. June Lane
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. G. Johnson
Secretary,	Mrs. Alex J. Mueller
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. P. Jochimsen

Our regular meeting is held the third Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the La Verne Recreation Building, La Verne, California.

LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

The 1954 officers of the African Violet Society of Long Beach, California, were beautifully and instructively installed by past president and honorary life member, Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer, after a luncheon meeting, Friday, January 8, 1954, Linden Hall, Long Beach, California.

Officers installed were:

President,	Mrs. Viola M. Wilson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Helen E. Koran
Secretary,	Mrs. Lorraine Stine
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marie Henning

In a few words all were admonished that to continue a successful society each one must do his duty; that the president represents the body of the membership but -- ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if the committee does not do it the president must.

A lovely social and informative meeting followed the business meeting. The very good attendance inspired the officers and members for a successful new year.

RACINE WISCONSIN

The Racine, Wisconsin, African Violet Society, at its annual meeting on November 30, 1953 elected the following officers:

President,	Phil Libby
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. D. J. Schindelholz
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harold Hay
Treasurer,	Mrs. Stephen Sklba
Secretary,	Mrs. Norman Fox
Board of Directors,	Glenn Barrer
	John Merscher

Meetings are held the last Monday of each month, except June, July and August, at the V. F. W. Hall at Racine at 8 p.m.

DELaware OHIO

The Town and Country African Violet Society of Delaware, Ohio, was organized April 6, 1953. This club is the only violet club in Delaware county. Membership now numbers ten, all of whom belong to the National Society.

Officers for the current year are:

President,	Mrs. Robert Shaw
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Mabel Dawson
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Elmer Ogden

BEATRICE NEBRASKA

The Beatrice African Violet Society of Beatrice, Nebraska, elected the following officers for 1954:

President,	Mrs. A. C. Jeffrey
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. G. Stratford
Secretary,	Mrs. A. J. Sander
Treasurer,	Mrs. Anna Rhodes
Librarian,	Mrs. Roy Barnard

MASON CITY IOWA

The Mason City African Violet Club of Mason City, Iowa, elected the following officers for 1954:

President,	Mrs. Fannie M. Paugh
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. A. Sears
Secretary,	Mrs. Alzada Jahnke
Treasurer,	Miss Priscilla Swann
Reporter,	Mrs. M. L. Righter

The club was organized in January, 1952, and at the end of 1953 had a membership of fifty-one. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Salvation Army Citadel or the YWCA.

RICHMOND VIRGINIA

The Richmond, Virginia, African Violet Society had as their guest speaker at the January meeting, Mr. Frank Tinari of Bethayres, Pennsylvania, who showed slides of the newer varieties and discussed Violet culture.

At the February meeting Mrs. F. L. Worcester taught the group how to make corsages with African violets or other flowers. The exhibits featured specimen red violets and arrangements suggestive of Valentine's Day. A luncheon in keeping with the month followed.

Again the Richmond club cordially invites all members passing through the city to attend its monthly meetings, the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 in the morning at Battery Park Club House.

ROCK ISLAND ILLINOIS

The Rock Island, Illinois, African Violet Club No. 1 was organized on September 22, 1953, in the home of Mrs. George Benner.

Officers elected for the year are:

President,	Mrs. George Benner
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Stanley Barta
Secy. Treas.,	Mrs. Park W. Jackson
Librarian & Historian,	Mrs. Gust Johnson
Ways & Means,	Mrs. N. T. Lentz

Meetings will be held in the homes of the members on the second Tuesday of the month. Membership will be limited to fifteen, all must be members of the National Society.

Rooted

AFRICAN VIOLET Leaves

A postcard from you to me will bring by return mail my list of the best varieties — old — medium old — and very new.

**JAMES R. GILLETTE
169 WASHINGTON CIRCLE
LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS**



on house and garden plants

This powerful spray insecticide kills mealy bugs, aphids, white flies, thrip and other plant insects. Just press the button! A fine spray kills instantly. I-BOMB, manufactured by horticultural experts, is economical for one or many plants. It's recommended for African Violets, ivies, and other garden and house plants. Won't burn bloom or foliage. Harmless to pets and children. \$1.59 at your dealer . . . or order direct.

PLANT MARVEL LABORATORIES

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ROTARY WINDOW TERRACE



A SHOW GARDEN THE YEAR AROUND. Handsome 3-tier planter fits any standard window without use of nails or screws. Turns to give all plants sunshine. Mrs. Geo. Pendleton, national authority, says: "Rotary Window Terrace is the ideal African Violet nursery. Simplifies growing rooted leaves into plants, requiring once-a-week watering, due to wick-action giving tiny plants water they need." Wrought iron shelf holds saucer and three tiers graduating 13-in., 8-in. and 4-in. diameter.

ONLY \$3.95 POSTPAID
MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS

The African Violet Council of Northern, Illinois, was organized at the home of Mrs. E. G. Magill, Aurora, Illinois. This council, which is made up of the presidents of local chapters which are affiliated with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. and which are located in the Northern District of Illinois will meet quarterly to plan activities for their member clubs.

On October 26, 1953, they held their first Judging School, which was well attended. Mrs. Frieda Loucks of Lockport, Illinois, was chairman of this project.

Officers for the council are:

President,	Mrs. G. P. McGraw, Downers Grove
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Frank Loucks, Lockport
Secretary,	Mrs. Stanley MacLaren, Berwyn
Treasurer,	Mrs. Samuel Rowe, Aurora

OMAHA NEBRASKA

The Omaha African Violet Club celebrated its seventh Anniversary with a Christmas party on December 10, in the print room at Joslyn Museum. Mrs. L. L. Renthler, our president, held a short business meeting. The door prize was won by Miss Violet's lucky number and a leaf exchange by the members. Gifts were presented to all present by numbers drawn from the "Christmas Pie."

Tea was served at a beautifully decorated table by Mrs. D. C. Rich and Mrs. W. K. Bly. Mrs. W. A. Simmons had charge of decorations, F. J. Kucirek of entertainment, and Mrs. E. Backstrom of refreshments.

THE END

BETTER AFRICAN VIOLETS

BETTER GARDENS
with all-organic • non-burning

ATLAS FISH EMULSION
The original fish fertilizer emulsion
AT NURSERIES AND GARDEN STORES

- DE-ODORIZED
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A balanced diet for Saint-paulias -- contains 22 natural trace minerals and plant food essentials. $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS -- feed 10-14 days. At Nurseries & Garden Stores OR

Pint \$1.00
Size Postpaid

ATLAS FISH FERTILIZER CO., Dept. K
No. 1 Drumm St., San Francisco 11, Calif.
A BALANCED ORGANIC FISH FERTILIZER



PILGRIMS learned from INDIANS to use FISH FERTILIZER



EPISCIAS

Ideal companion plants for your African Violets, to which they are related. Trailing plants with vivid scarlet or light blue flowers and very beautiful leaves. We are the originators of most of the newest varieties.

Write for price list of Episcias and other Gesneriads.

Shipping season — May 1st to October 1st.

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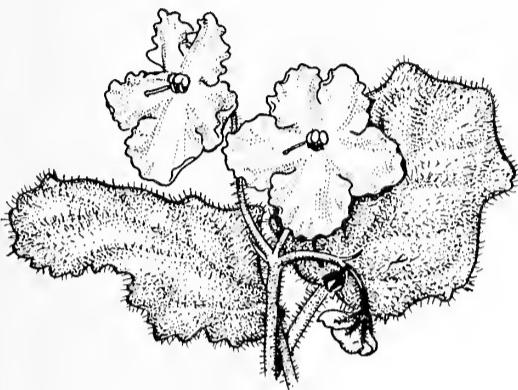
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Fischer's spectacular array of superb Saintpaulias will delight any plant lover. Here is a sampling of our 33 varieties



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BLUE HORIZON

FRINGED GENEVAS

\$2.00 each

all three \$5.00

Striking single blossoms, white bordered and frilled, have pecot edge effect

Eclipse -- red-lavender

Silhouette -- giant dark blue, white edge almost a tint

White Caps -- deep blue

DOUBLE GENEVAS

\$2.50 each

all four \$7.50

Foremost new violets of the decade, happy combinations of bouquet-flowering doubles and white-edged Genevas

Silver Lining -- light blue, white edge

Snow Line -- red-lavender companion

Edna Fischer -- lovely plum shade double

Blue Horizon -- deep blue of series

CHOICE SELECTIONS

all four \$6.00

NOVELTY VARIETIES OF REAL MERIT

Minuet Imp. -- lovely ruffled mauve \$2.00

Starglow -- fringed pure white . . . \$2.00

Confederate Beauty --
giant velvet-blue \$1.50

Francy Frances --
dark blue, pansy-like flowers . . . \$1.50

Cash with orders, please -- orders \$6.00 or over, postpaid
Under, add 25¢ per plant mailing

OUR LOVELY COLOR FOLDER IS
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LINWOOD

Dept. V. M. NEW JERSEY



African Violets

In a new setting to
enhance any home

Now you can grow seven violets in
one pot, the exciting "Strawberry
Jar" way. Photo left.

VARIETIES AS FOLLOWS:

Top Center — Philadelphia Belle
Top Left — Wine Velvet
Lower Left — Clementine
Right Top — Pink Luster
Lower Right — Painted Girl

The other two plants are not visible.

STRAWBERRY JAR — Imported Italian Pottery holds seven plants. Ideal for African Violets or Episcias. Natural rustic pottery color. Eleven inches high, having six distinct side pockets, large top opening, with drainage hole at bottom . . . \$7.50 ea. Ppd.

TRY TINARI'S VIOLETS. A TRIAL ORDER WILL CONVINCE YOU.

BUY DIRECT FROM GROWER — AT GROWERS PRICES.

CHOOSE FROM THESE NEWEST VARIETIES.

Philadelphia Belle . . . \$2.00 each

Clementine, Pansy, Ruby Girl, Frosty, Pink Attraction, Pink Wonder . . . \$1.50 each

SPECIAL VARIETY GROUP . . . \$1.00 each

Ruffled Queen, Frilled DuPont, Apple Blossom, Blue Flute, Blue Heiress, Holly, Giant Red Bi-Color, Lady Geneva Supreme, Double Lady.

WELL KNOWN VARIETIES . . . 75¢ each

America, Amazon Blue Eyes, Amazon Purple Prince, Azure Beauty, Blue Knight, Black Fringe, Burgundy, Crinkles, Dark Beauty, Double Neptune, DuPont Lav. Pink. Fantasy, Frilled Blue Delight, Geneva's Daughter, Helen Wilson Bouquet, Lacy Girl, Lav. Girl Hybrid, Marine Bouquet, Miss Liberty, Navy Bouquet, Painted Girl, Pink Cheer, Pink Luster, Purity, Purple Girl, Red King, Red Lady, Ruby Bouquet, Ruffled Beauty, Sailor's Delight, Sailor Girl, Star Girl, Snow Prince, Velvet Girl, Velvet Bouquet, Violet Beauty, Wine Velvet.

EPISCIA VARIETIES

Episcia coccinea, cupreata, lilacina, Silver Sheen, splendens, viridifolia. (These all have the flame red flower) . . . 75¢ each

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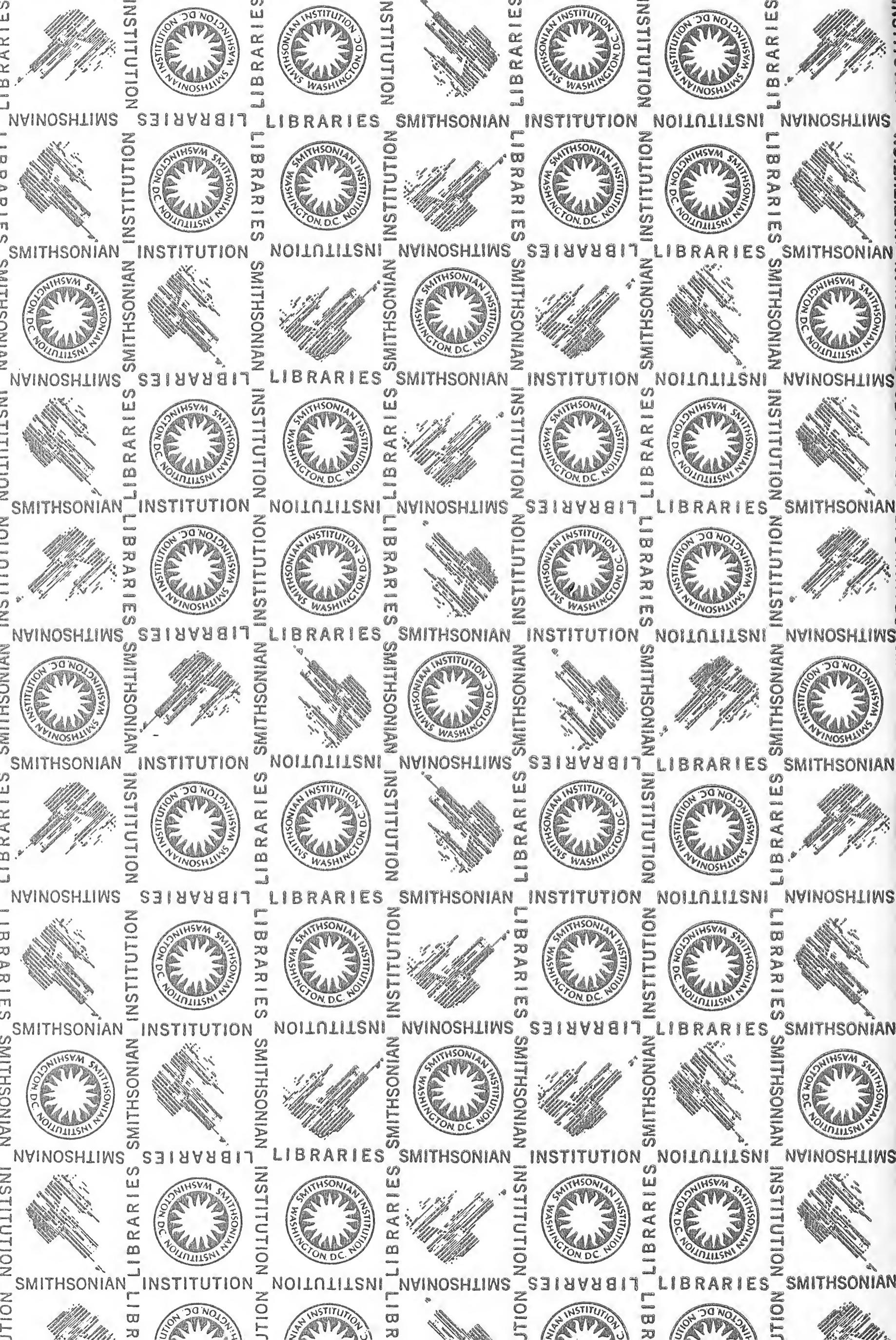
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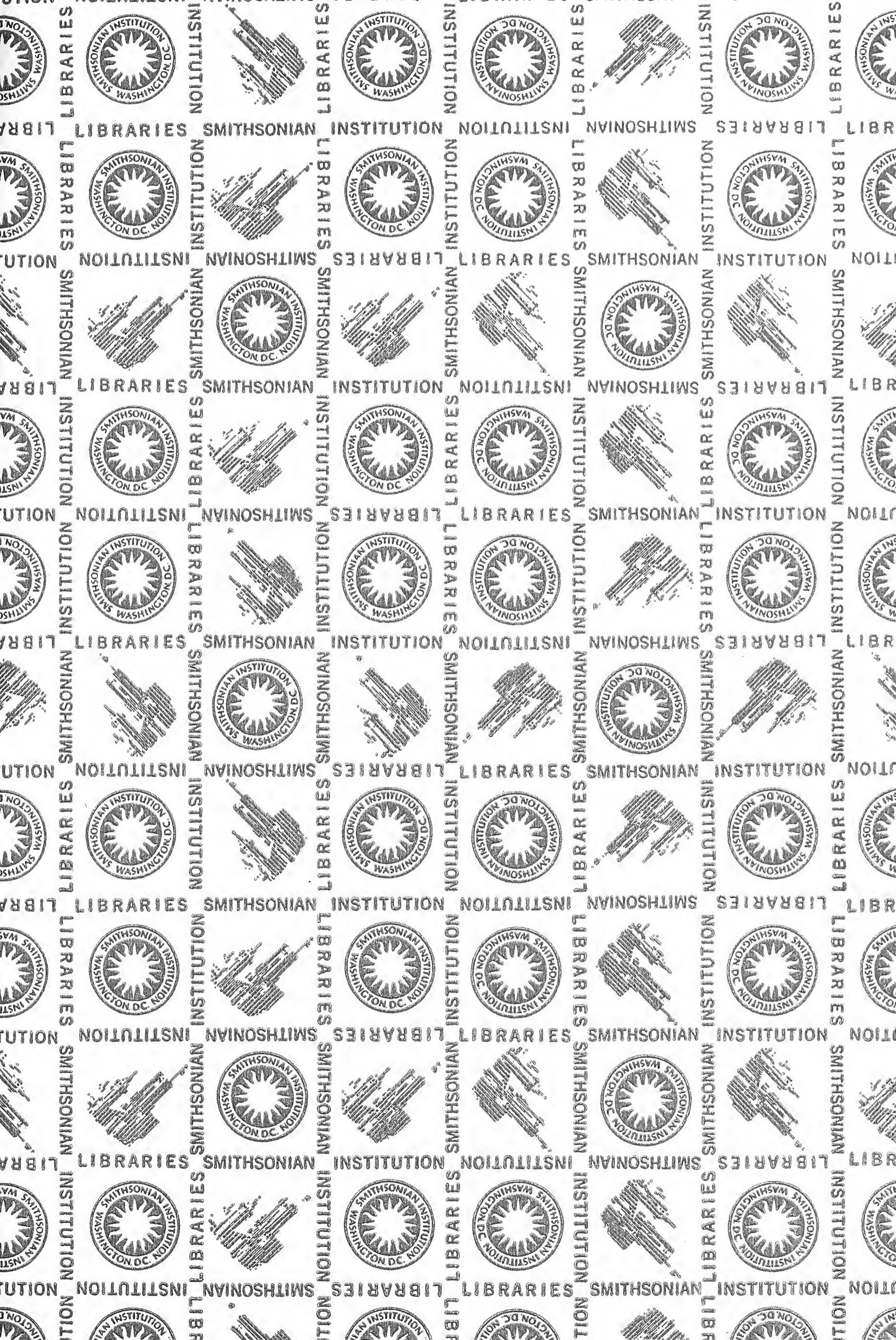
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